



Inside

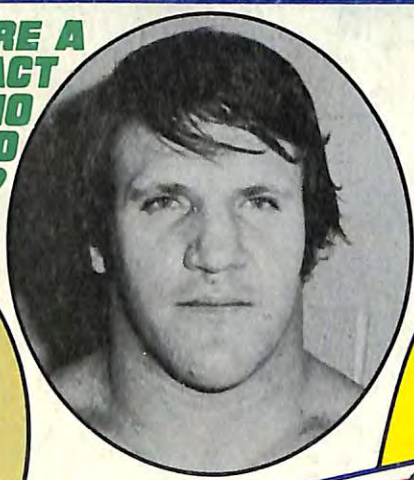
THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

February 1977

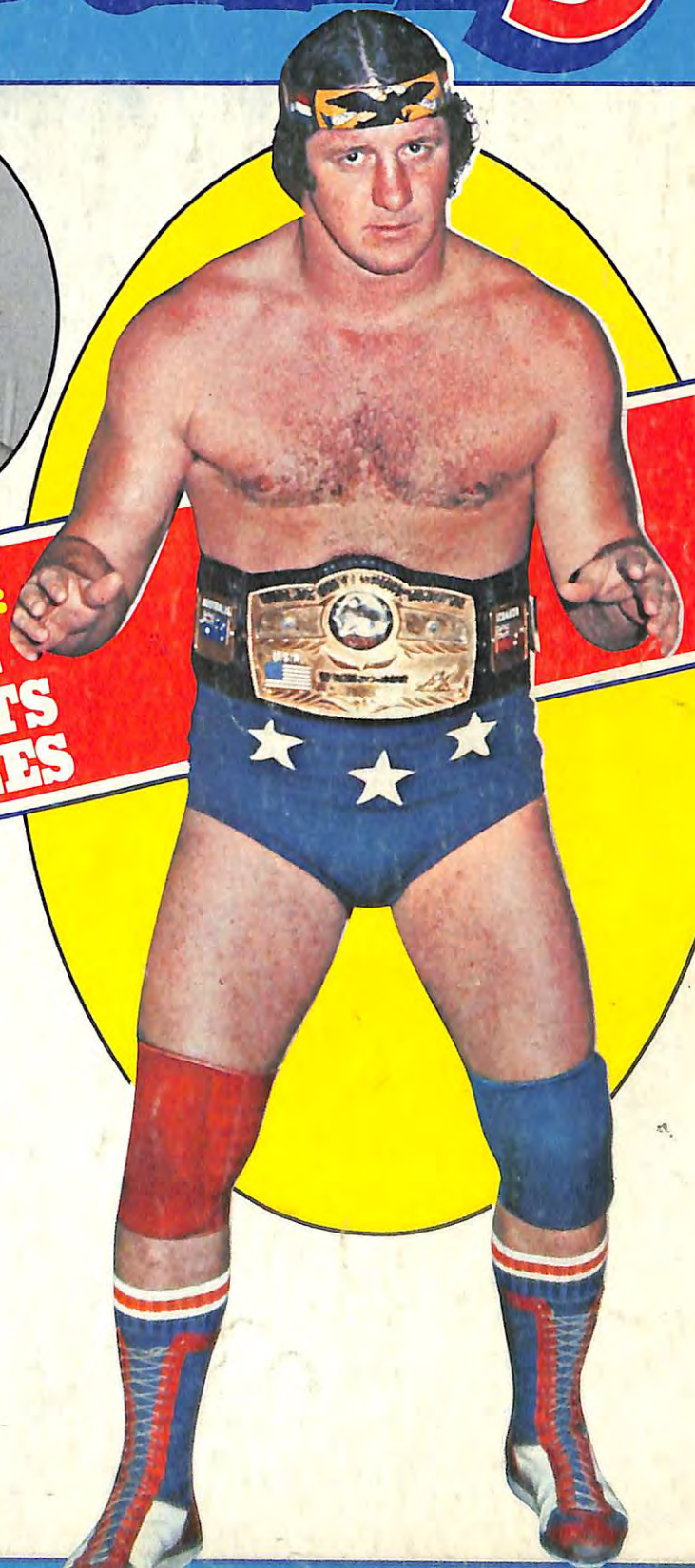
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Wrestling

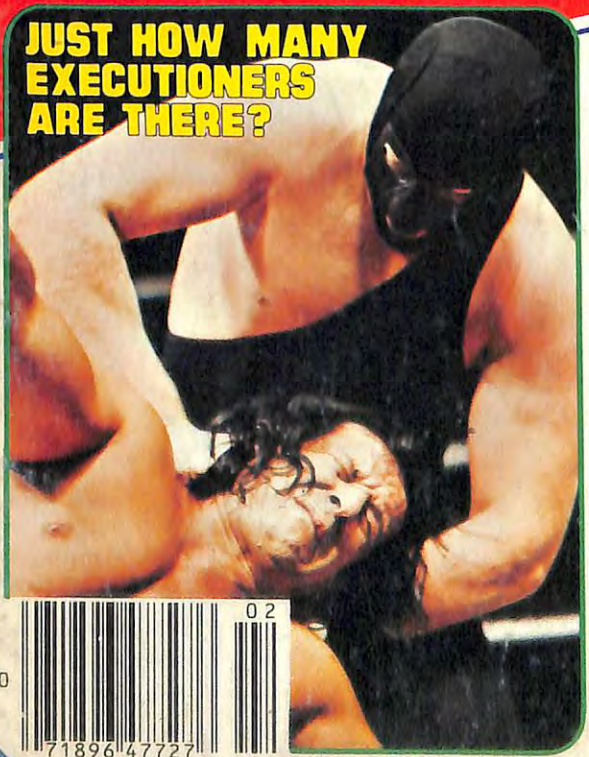
Exclusive: IS THERE A
SECRET PACT
BETWEEN BRUNO
SAMMARTINO AND
MR. WRESTLING II?



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INSIDE *Wrestling*

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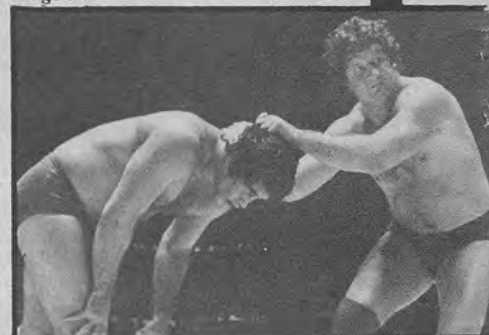
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COVER PHOTOS
BY
BILL APTER

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

Hello again, wrestling fans. I believe that this month we have put together what will prove to be one of the finest issues of INSIDE WRESTLING ever!

The story on page 22, "Is There a Secret Pact Between Bruno Sammartino and Mr. Wrestling II?" is an article sure to cause many reverberations throughout the wrestling community. However, it's a story which we researched for more than eight months. Yes, it is controversial, but I believe it had to be printed. I hope you agree with me.

We put a wrestler on "The Hotseat" in an attempt to get past the rhetoric, the exaggerations, and the "little white lies" professional wrestlers sometimes tell in the course of regular interviews. For The Hotseat is a no-holds-barred forum where the truth always seems to come out. I believe Terry Funk, who is the subject of this month's Hotseat, revealed a little more about himself than he had hoped. But that's what makes The Hotseat the great article it is.

Another story in this issue features Greg Gagne. In an exclusive story on page 27, we predict young Greg will be the next AWA king. Certainly the most controversial story of the month begins on page 44, and it asks the question which may end tag team wrestling as we now know it: "Just How Many Executioners Are There?" Once again, INSIDE WRESTLING asks the questions no one else asks, and covers the story everyone else fears.

Without doubt, the saddest story in this issue is the one on page 34: "Andre the Giant Wants to Quit Wrestling!" However, there is a ray of hope--Andre tells us he will continue wrestling if the fans want him to. So now, it is up to you, the fans, to decide.



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Blackjack Lanza listens patiently while manager Bobby Heenan gives him some last minute instructions. Heenan has managed Lanza and Bobby Duncum to the AWA tag team championship. The two men are ruthless champions.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA— During my many months on the road, I have interviewed hundreds of wrestlers. Most of these interviews ended up as stories for this magazine. Only my most extensive or horrifying conversations have found their way into this column.

One of the most fascinating discussions I ever had with a wrestler was the one I had recently with Blackjack Lanza. I had come to this city to cover some routine matches. I spotted Blackjack in the dressing room area, where he was visiting with some of the wrestlers scheduled to go on that night. We chatted for a few minutes, and then he agreed to sit for an interview.

I am not now, nor have I ever been, completely at ease in a wrestling arena. I simply cannot do my best work in those surroundings. A good interview should take place as far away as possible from an arena. Indeed, I have held interviews in my car (with Rocky Johnson), in a park (with Mr. Wrestling II), and on the beach (with Jack Brisco).

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway was the site I chose to interview Blackjack Lanza.

It was a chilly day and the speedway was deserted. But within that great, vast expanse of open space, I was able to conduct one of the most revealing interviews I have ever had with any wrestler.

As we huddled in the stands by the finish line, Blackjack began to talk about his career; his hopes, his failures.

"You know," he told me, "when I first started wrestling, I wanted nothing more than to win a respected wrestling title. I thought it was the most important thing. But now that I have been holding a belt for a while, I really wonder if the effort was worth it."

"There are times when I just become fed up with the whole crazy mess. I think I might have been wiser if I had never gone into professional wrestling in the first place. But what else can I do now? I am locked into a pattern from which there is no escape. It has all been preordained."

"You might ask me about what I can do to escape from this pattern of which I am speaking. The answer, quite simply, is nothing. I have tried, but it is impossible. My life is totally consumed by wrestling."

"I enjoy holding the AWA tag team title with Bobby Duncum. There's a lot of fun and glory connected with being a champion. But sometimes, it can be a dreadful bore. There are responsibilities inherent in the title which I never dreamed possible while I was just a contender. No one warned me. I wasn't prepared. And in spite of what some people may think, I do care about the title. I care a lot."

Lanza fell silent for a few moments. A cold stiff wind raced around the track and up into the stands where we sat. I looked directly at Blackjack, and I could see he was quite upset over what he had just said.

(Continued on page 52)

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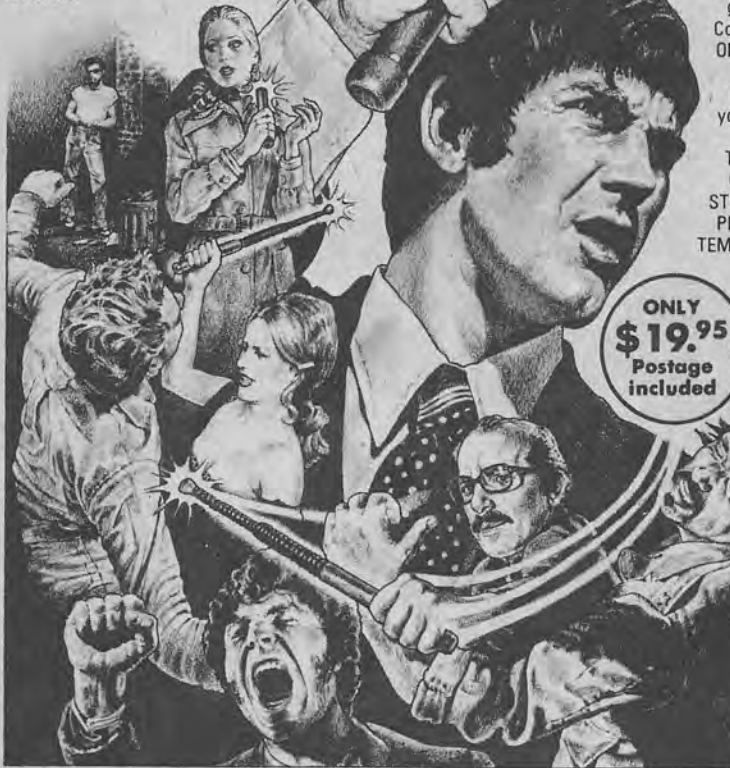
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by Randy
Gordon

LOVE HIM or hate him, NWA kingpin Terry Funk is one of the most active wrestlers in the sport. He defends his title everywhere. From north of the Canadian border down to southern Texas. From Georgia to across the Pacific. Terry gives all who are worthy a shot at his coveted title.

"He is not a hibernating champion," said brother, Dory Jr., "and I'm proud of him."

He certainly isn't a hibernating champion. Recently, I had the opportunity to see Terry defeat Bob Backlund, John Quinn and Jose Lothario all within a six day span. Incredible!

"I plan on remaining champion for a long, long time," Funk told me. He may be right. His brutal match in Japan against Baba the Giant still remains in my memory. Baba put up a valiant struggle that—against anybody else—probably would have spelled victory. But Funk, a master defensive strategist, is also capable of unleashing a whirlwind offense, and he combined the two to completely overwhelm Baba.

"Slowly but surely," says Funk, "I have fans coming over to my side. They realize I'm no ordinary wrestler. They realize I'm something special. When you defeat the quality of opponents I keep defeating, you must be special."

Soon Terry will be leaving on a tour of the Australian wrestling circuit, and I'll be along with him, ready to send back all the exciting news of his victories—or the astonishing, shocking news of his defeat.

Many of you have been writing me kind letters, and I appreciate each one of them deeply. In several of those letters, you have asked me to send you the address of your favorite wrestlers. As I have stated before, I cannot do that, because I have sworn to keep their home addresses secret.

Kevin Sullivan, who many of the letters are directed to, explained it to me this way. "Can you picture what might happen if you printed my home address? I wouldn't mind my fans getting that information, but my worst enemies would also get it. My life would be in complete

(Continued on page 56)



"I have a Weider body. Don't you want a Weider body too?" only \$4.98

"Invest in your body," says Joe Weider. "Now you can have my \$18.98 "Power-X" Muscle-Up kit for only \$4.98... but hurry, this is a limited time offer!"

This giant kit features my famous "Power-X" Muscle Builder that can help you add inches of solid muscle to your arms, deepen your chest, broaden your shoulders, slim your waistline, powerize your legs and give you that muscular, handsome body you've always craved. All within the privacy of your own home.

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My methods work. They have been proven since 1936 — when I first started training champions. And since then, almost every Mr. America and Mr. Universe has been trained by me. The techniques I taught them, I can teach you, too. I'll show you how to avoid pitfalls, training errors and wasted time. I'll reveal the secrets of achieving one of the greatest-looking, most muscular bodies in the world.

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I believe that once I put you on that road to a better, more healthy, vigorous body, you'll want to try other Weider products, too. Like my muscle building food supplements, vitamins and minerals. Or the world famous Weider training equipment.

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Hurry! My \$18.98 kit, available now for only \$4.98, may have to be withdrawn at any moment because of rising printing, postal, and manufacturing costs!

Never again will you be able to get this special introductory offer. You get it all — everything I've just described to you on this page — for less than my costs. But hurry. This offer is good only while the supply lasts. **ACT NOW!** **RIGHT THIS VERY MOMENT.**



Joe proudly poses with his famous pupil, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mr. Olympia winner.

Send only \$4.98 for my Muscle Building "Power-X" kit!

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Joe: I don't see how you can do it — but here's my \$4.98! (Plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.) Rush me my complete "Power-X" Kit, including the "Power-X" Muscle Builder, plus the Nutrition Guide, plus the Muscle Builder magazine, plus the first issue of your giant "Enter the Wonderful World of Joe Weider" Muscle Building Manual, plus a FREE \$5.00 Gift Certificate! I understand I will receive 3 additional Muscle Building Manuals during the year. (Calif. res. add 6% sales tax.) (Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.)

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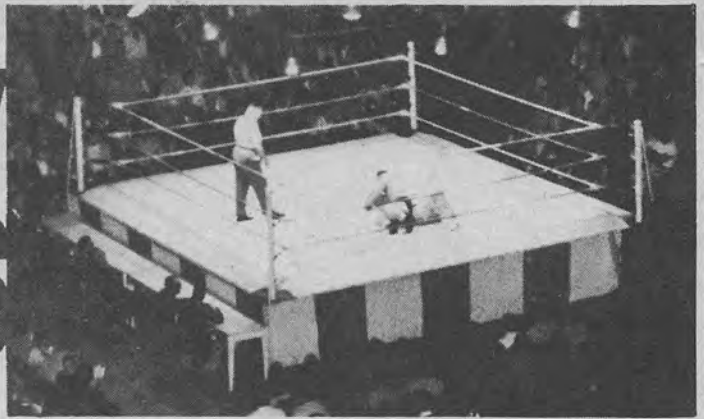
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SINCERELY YOURS



TOO FUNNY!

I couldn't stop laughing after reading your article, "Stan Stasiak's Incredible Message to Bruno: 'I will Take Your Title and Leave You for Dead'" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976).

Stan Stasiak has to be the biggest fool walking on two feet. Just because he was lucky in defeating Pedro Morales for the WWWF title does not mean he can beat a great champion like Bruno Sammartino. After all, I have witnessed Stasiak go down to defeat at the hands of Gorilla Monsoon, Pedro Morales, Victor Rivera, not to mention the present champion, Bruno Sammartino.

Stan Stasiak had better watch his step in the WWWF. There are plenty of men who would love to get their hands on him!

DAVID FOSTER
Philadelphia, Penn.

Above: Mil Mascaras wages war against Ernie Ladd, as he promised he would to a dying girl. Below: Stan Stasiak and Grand Wizard celebrate during Stasiak's short title reign.



TOUCHING TALE

I really cried after reading the story, "The Tragic Promise That Forces Mil Mascaras to Keep Wrestling" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). The promise he made to that dying girl to keep wrestling as long as he could touched me deeply.

I say Mil Mascaras has a big heart. This is what makes him the greatest wrestler in the world today!

MICHAEL MURRAY
Jersey City, N.J.

SO SAD

I feel compelled to comment on your story, "The Tragic Promise That Forces Mil Mascaras to Keep Wrestling." I truly believe it is one of the finest stories your magazine has ever printed. Indeed, I think your entire December 1976 issue will, in a very short time, become a collector's item.

All the stories were excellent, but the Mil Mascaras story was superb. It showed how great a human being Mil is. I must admit I was crying by the time I finished reading the article. My heart goes out to the family of Pamela Collins. I hope the young girl will rest easier knowing she has a champion in Mil Mascaras.

I find it difficult to express what I really feel about that story. I'm sure thousands of other readers feel the same way.

ELLEN CORBETT
Des Moines, Iowa

ABOUT DUSTY'S TRAGEDY

I was intensely interested in "The Disgrace Dusty Rhodes Can Never Escape" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). This very human story gave me a clearer insight into Rhodes. I don't think I will ever be able to look as kindly towards the wrestler again.

(Continued on page 46)

A million jobs have disappeared since 1960 Will Your Job be Next to Go?

Shouldn't you start your own business NOW
...while still employed?

Before more jobs disappear through mergers, automation, and mechanization, shouldn't you at least investigate the way so many men have become owners of profitable businesses—starting spare time and now are independent of bosses, strikes, layoffs and automation? All that's needed is your name on the coupon. Facts mailed free. No salesman will call.

Here are facts: With some ambition and less than fifteen hundred dollars, you start your own Duraclean business, spare time, without risking your job or paycheck!

It's a nationally advertised, worldwide business. It does not require skill, more than an average education, or traits except the willingness to work to start grossing \$12, \$19, or \$26 profit per hour. By return mail, we will explain how.

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This is a service to homeowners as well as offices and stores and institutions—a sensationally improved method of cleaning carpets and upholstered furniture right on the customer's premises—the EXCLUSIVE DURACLEAN SYSTEM!

When you have had your own carpet and furniture cleaned, you know that ordinary methods grind fibers with harsh scrubbing, leaving carpet soggy for days.

This exclusive ABSORPTION METHOD lifts out dirt and greasy soil with a gentle, almost dry foam. Do-it-yourself "so-called" cleaning methods and scrubbing drive soil deeper. You TAKE IT OUT. Carpets and furniture can be used again in a few hours! This is vital to stores, offices, motels.

You operate under a nationally known name—use an exclusive process recommended by the nation's leading carpet mills and in the editorial pages by House & Garden, McCall's, Parents, and House Beautiful. You receive our step by step guidance and help.

Your training shows you how to perform your 7 superior "on location" services . . . how to get customers, how to control your expenses, how to make the maximum profit. You become an expert in the care of furnishings. It is an interesting, exciting career.

Although in time you will wish to buy one or more trucks from your profits, no truck or office is needed to start. You can carry all equipment in your car trunk. Your phone calls can be received at home.

As a Duraclean Dealer you are the sole owner of an independent business and are your own boss. You keep all the net profits.



This business can pay you far more than most men earn—with only the talent and ambition you now possess, and you can operate in any one of three ways.

Many let servicemen do the work while they make a substantial profit on each.

Some men operate permanently in spare time for the extra money they need. Some start in spare time and quit their jobs only after they see they can make a lot more money as a full time Duraclean Specialist.

Even small one-man businesses with one or two helpers can and do bring in \$30,000 and more annually. A very high percent is clear profit to you.

The Duraclean Business can be as small as you want or it can be expanded to the level your ambition dictates. There is no limit on income for an ambitious man.

We are about to appoint a limited number of men who are truly ambitious, and anxious to do something about their futures. We want men who will follow our proven plans for success and who want—with our help—their own successful businesses.

If this opportunity interests you, please send your name, on the coupon at the right, for a FREE 24-page booklet which gives complete details on the Duraclean Business. No salesman will call on you. After you've read the facts, decide in the privacy of your home if you wish to take the next step toward starting a business.

WE SWITCHED!

"For the first time in 20 years I've got security—without fear of losing my factory job."

H. E., Ohio

"I took in \$2880 in April. I worked from my home. My wife handles all telephone calls. We both enjoy our new-found independence and the compliments we get from satisfied customers."

J.F.A., Texas

"When I was 40 I decided to retire before I was 50 years old. With Duraclean I gained financial security in only 8 years—then sold my business at a big profit."

J.H., Ill.

"Duraclean brought security and an education for my daughters. We've done as much as \$3000 on a single job."

Mrs. B.B., Mass.

"Life is happier and more prosperous for my family and me. Without Duraclean I'd still be going from layoff to layoff. Now moving to new 5-bedroom home."

R.J.B., Mich.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE LETTERS IN OUR FILES FROM MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE FOUND SUCCESS AS DURACLEAN DEALERS. (IN ANOTHER YEAR YOUR STATEMENT COULD BE HERE, TOO.)

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NAMES MAKI

STEVE KEIRN, congratulations! You finally won the Southern title from THE ASSASSIN! It couldn't have happened to a nicer guy! . . . The NWA better do something about KEN MANTELL and that piledriver he's using. Mantell, holder of the Americas title, almost killed RAUL MATA with that dreaded maneuver. CARLOS MATA, Raul's brother, wept as his brother was taken out on a stretcher with his future in serious doubts. This piledriver must be banned!



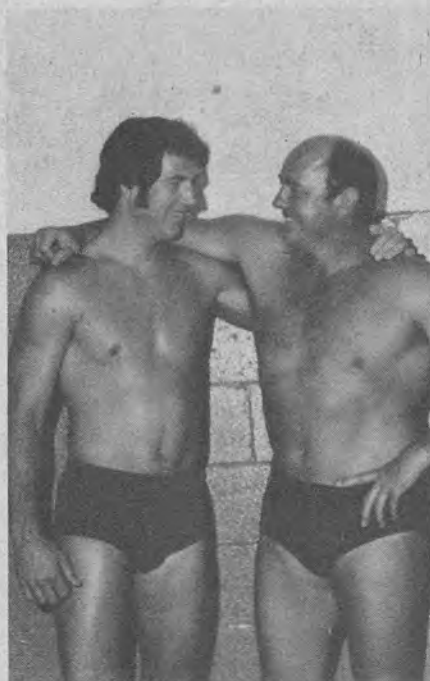
KEN MANTELL

Big news for DON KENT fans—he just won a version of the U.S. title. Sad news for fans of PAMPERO FIRPO—Kent whipped the Argentinian for the honors . . . OX BAKER and his heartpunch were not enough to stop TONY MARINO in a recent Michigan brawl . . . SUPERSTAR GRAHAM is renting out space on Florida billboards announcing he will be coming to that state soon.

Who was the mysterious masked man at ringside trying to assist TERRY FUNK in his match against MR. WRESTLING II? Insiders say it was DORY FUNK JR. Terry and Dory say, "That isn't true!" . . . THE ROYAL KANGAROOS boast, "We are willing to take on five teams in one night. And each match can be the best two out of three falls—plus we will win



PAMPERO FIRPO



GREG AND VERNE GAGNE

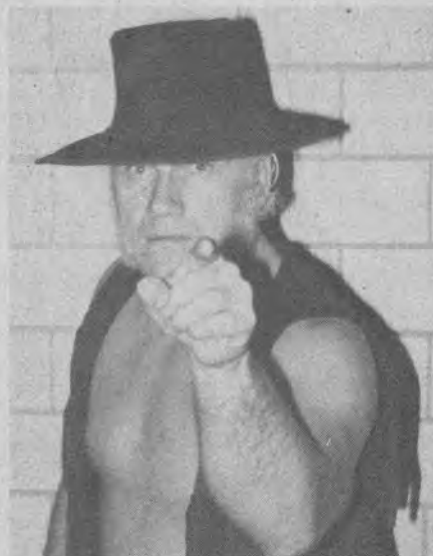
them all!" . . . Don't write VERNE GAGNE off yet fans. If his son GREG GAGNE does not win the AWA title soon, he's planning to pull off a plan that will ensure that either he or Greg will win the belt. "We will fight fire with fire. Bockwinkle has BOBBY HEENAN at ringside to help him when he's in trouble. Well, Greg and I will become each other's manager for matches against Bockwinkle. Maybe we'll get the title the same way they did—by shady means!" That doesn't sound like the Verne Gagne we know. But it's about time he wised up as far as



JACK BRISCO

bouts against Bockwinkle are concerned!

Poor JIM DILLON. He was really humiliated before leaving Texas—according to fan Jan Goehring. Jan writes that Dillon's last few weeks in Texas saw him wrestling a bear, being forced to eat a can of dog food, and being forced into a bath tub set up in the ring after losing a match! Dillon hopes his luck will change now that he's in the Georgia area. We guess it would be hard for things to get worse than that . . . JACK BRISCO finally got a long awaited Texas Death Match against BOB ROOP, a man who was once a good friend to Jack. Brisco slaughtered Bob, but he didn't shut



JIM DILLON

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



RAY STEVENS



LOU ALBANO

him up for good. "He used brass knuckles on me!" Roop stated after the match . . . **BEAU JAMES** has split with **RAY STEVENS**! Things have gotten so bad between them that James actually helped **MIKE GRAHAM** out when the youngster clashed with Ray!

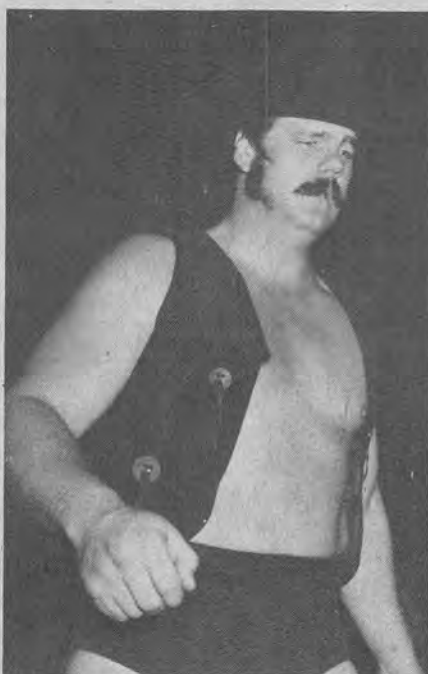
It is agreed, **JIMMY SNUKA** is one of the most underrated stars in the sport. Fans are all saying that after his recent one hour draw against NWA champion Funk . . . **DON LEO JONATHAN** admits **JESSIE VENTURA** "Is one of the most vicious men I've ever wrestled." . . . **BRUNO SAMMARTINO** claims, "**STAN STASIAK** has some sort of weapon in that taped fist of his." Many other wrestlers have made this claim, saying Stasiak's excuse something is wrong with the fist is just a hunk of bull.

New York fans want to see more of **CHAVO GUERRERO**—in person—not just on television! . . . **CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO** is threatening the WWF with lawsuits because it stripped **THE EXECUTIONERS** of the tag team title a few months back . . . **RIC FLAIR**, that was pretty

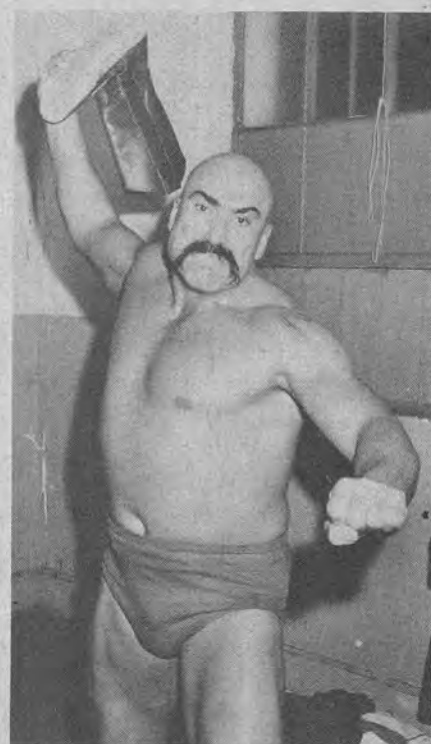


RIC FLAIR

rotten. All that kid wanted to do was take your picture near the dressing room area. You didn't have to grab his camera and break it! Ditto, **DICK SLATER** is another camera breaker. Stay far away from him if you've got any photographic equipment . . . **BLACKJACK MULLIGAN** is having a tough time trying to get **TIM WOODS** to wrestle him. No, Tim is not afraid of Mulligan. "It's just that when Mulligan was U.S. champion, he refused to wrestle me. Now that I hold the mid-Atlantic TV title he will have a hard time trying to get me to agree to a match!"



BLACKJACK MULLIGAN



MONGOLIAN STOMPER

LOST & FOUND DEPT.—**SPIROS ARION** and **ERNIE LADD**—They are grappling in Australia as is German terror **WALDO VON ERICH** . . . **BUGSY MCGRAW** is back in Canadian rings . . . The **MONGOLIAN STOMPER** has become a menace in Georgia . . . **ANTONIO INOKI** has not retired as the rumors stated after his match against Muhammad Ali. He is wrestling regularly in Japan . . . **BUTCHER BRANNIGAN** and **SONNY KING** are in the Carolinas . . . **THE ROYAL KANGAROOS** are whipping all competition in northern California.

TOR KAMATA claims **IVAN PUTSKI** brought salt into the ring to use against him. Come on Kamata, we all know it's the other way around . . . **NIKOLAI VOLKOFF** still has not stopped crying that he was robbed in his match against Sammartino . . . **BOB ORTON JR. & SR.** teaming regularly again . . . The unscheduled beating **MANUAL SOTO** gave Lou Albano has Lou vowing, "One of my men will end that creep's career!"

That's all the news for this month! □



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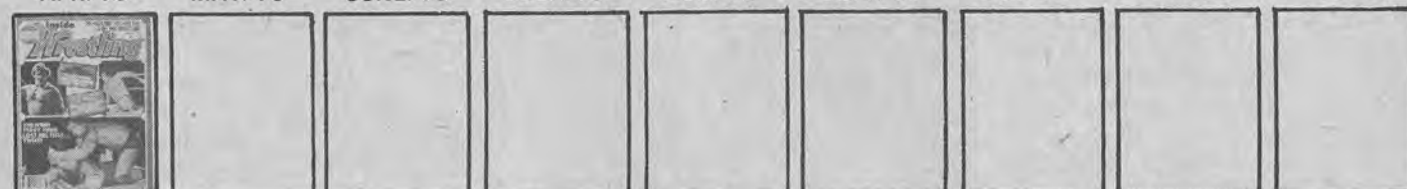
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan
Shocket



Stan Stasiak smashes a heartpunch into the helpless Luigi Macera. Although Macera had to be hospitalized, our columnist believes Stasiak should be allowed to use the heartpunch at all times.

OF ALL THE stupid wastes of time, the controversy over banning maneuvers has to take first prize for dumbness. It's a stupidity based on cowardice.

All this talk of making some moves illegal is just the whimpering wrestlers' way of saying, "I'm scared!" Being a professional wrestler without knowing how to defend oneself, I suppose the fellow has a right to be scared. Incompetence in the face of combat is always frightening. But when one tries to mask incompetence by crying foul, that's ridiculous.

Case in point: banning the piledriver. As it stands, a man is immediately disqualified for using it in the AWA, may be disqualified in the NWA, and they're afraid to talk about it in the WWWF (any maneuver threatening fragile Sammartino's neck gets them nervous these days). This confusion results

from a lot of whining by the self-proclaimed scientific wrestlers. Commissions, realizing any injury to these muddlers would mean a drop at the box-office, give in to their desperate demands. Every so often, a real wrestler challenges the stupid banning, then no one knows what is going on. The only people who like that situation are the scientific wrestlers, whose entire reputations are based on ignorance.

Let's examine the piledriver. It's a perfectly straightforward maneuver, difficult to master and devastating in its effects. Anyone able to perfect it has a great advantage over an opponent. Many scientific wrestlers, who disguise their limited repertoires as "sticking by the rules," haven't a prayer in learning this tactic. Therefore, they have to use the commissions to do their dirty work for them. "Ban what you can't learn" is a scientific rule.

There is no logical reason to ban the piledriver. Taking it from its master is like putting weights on a flying wrestler. Many scientific wrestlers insist their opponents be thrust into the same hole they've wallowed in for years. "He shouldn't be allowed to do that" can be translated into "I can't do that because I don't have the skill."

There is no excuse to deprive the fans of watching the piledriver. It's an exciting maneuver, awesome in its fierce majesty. Executed perfectly, it's one of wrestling's great thrills. It's a combination of grace and cruelty found in no other sport. The fans would be the real losers if this maneuver is forever banned. Protect the cowards and destroy the sport.

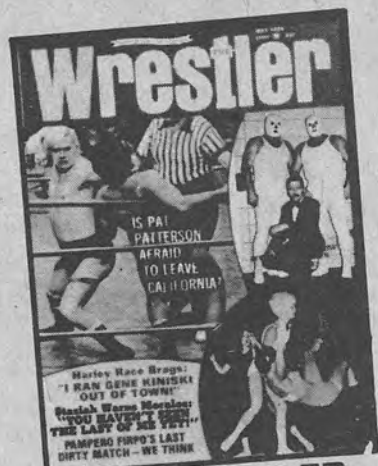
If only it was just the piledriver that was in danger, there wouldn't be so great a crisis. It would be foolish to think the "scientific" (cowardly) wrestlers will stop there. The fact of the matter is that many maneuvers are being endangered by the physically limited, terrified group. Many top wrestlers have been forced to modify or abandon various maneuvers because of commission pressure originating with the whining "sportsmen."

Who can forget the beautiful majesty of Ray Stevens' "bombs away?" The younger fans can't forget it, they've been deprived of ever seeing it. A couple of guys got hurt because they weren't physically capable of absorbing minimal punishment. Naturally, this scared the crybabies. They went right to the commissioners (probably with a hefty bribe) and demanded Stevens be deprived of his most effective maneuver.

(Continued on page 62)

WRESTLING'S GREATEST SUBSCRIPTION

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RUMOR vs. FACT

Day after day, we receive letters asking if certain rumors are true. We hear other rumors in the dressing room, as wrestlers themselves wonder what is truth and what is slander. This column is dedicated to tearing away the falsehoods and revealing the truth, regardless of whom it may hurt

RUMOR: The reason Ivan Putski doesn't ask for shot at the WWWF championship is because Bruno Sammartino is blackmailing him. As soon as Ivan demands his rightful chance at the title, Bruno will threaten to tell the Immigration Department he is an illegal alien. At the very least, it would cause Ivan years of legal turmoil.

FACT: There would be no legal difficulty for Ivan if someone said he was an illegal alien. The officials would laugh at the person who reported it. Sammartino has little say over whom he must face. Most people believe the rumor was started by Grand Wizard.

RUMOR: Andre the Great is shrinking! The glands which caused his great height have ceased to function, causing his body to contract. He will lost eight inches of height before the joints in his body solidify, thus leaving him a hopeless cripple.

FACT: Measured very recently, Andre is exactly the same size he was last year. No one is quite sure where this rumor started.

RUMOR: Jim Brunzell, angered over Greg Gagne slighting their tag team for the solo AWA championship, has been sabotaging Gagne in many of Greg's single matches. This accounts for Gagne's heel falling off during a match, enabling Baron Von Raschke to use it as a weapon.

FACT: Brunzell is all for Gagne's title hopes and helps his friend at every turn. The heel came off in a recent match because Gagne, whose luggage had been lost on an American Airlines flight, had to use someone else's old boot. The aged boot didn't hold up.



IVAN PUTSKI



ANDRE THE GIANT



JIM BRUNZELL



PETER MAIVIA

RUMOR: Believing in the ancient Polynesian art of predicting the future, Peter Maivia plans his entire career on the random throwing of conch shells and rocks. He has betrayed partners and cancelled matches infuriating promoters, simply because the shells say he shouldn't wrestle.

FACT: Peter Maivia has a degree in ancient cultures from a top university. He is doing his MFA thesis on the Polynesian art of foretelling the future. He doesn't believe in it nor has he ever betrayed partner nor promoter. He has made jokes about what the shells say and someone obviously took him seriously, starting the rumor.



THE SHEIK

RUMOR: The ASPCA is asking that Sheik be arrested for torturing snakes. The grappler's hatred of the creatures has turned him to mutilating and starving the slinky creatures. If convicted, Sheik faces 12 years imprisonment.

FACT: Sheik is too afraid of snakes to go near enough to torture them. He refuses to even go in the same house that harbors a snake.



DORY FUNK JR.

RUMOR: The long hair and beard now worn by Dory Funk Jr. are actually designed as a cover for razor blades he has pasted to his scalp. When an opponent has him in a headlock, the blades slice into the man's arms. Dory could conceivably slice an opponent's artery open, causing him to bleed to death during a match.

FACT: It would be much too dangerous for anyone to tape razor blades to his head. Dory's head has been inspected before every match since the rumor began; nothing has ever been found. This rumor was presumably started with Funk's permission, hoping this would stop men from getting Dory in headlocks.



MR. FUJI

RUMOR: The recent success enjoyed by Mr. Fuji can be attributed to a cadre of Japanese businessmen bribing wrestlers and officials. These men plan to get Fuji the NWA title and then have it taken back to Japan. Any American wanting the title will have to pay for the privilege of wrestling the champion. That, with the money one gets from any title, will more than pay for their investment.

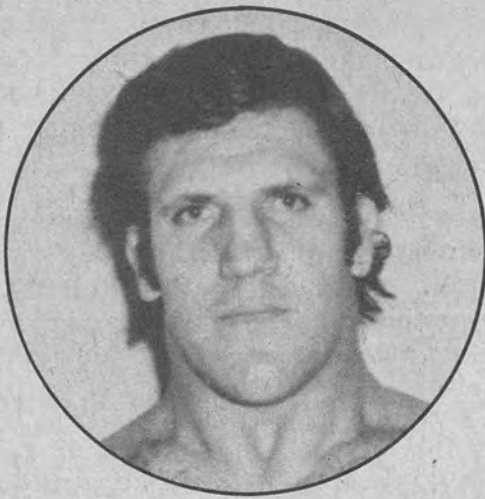
FACT: No such conspiracy exists. After exhaustive hearings, the NWA has found no truth in this rumor. The rumor was supposedly started by wrestlers who feared Fuji would get a title shot before they would. No one knows exactly who these men are.



BOBBY HEENAN

RUMOR: As the AWA rules state a man being thrown over the ropes is illegal and grounds for disqualification, Bobby Heenan loosens the ropes before every title match. This would make the wrestlers topple over fairly easily, insuring a disqualification, thereby insuring his men would retain their title.

FACT: Heenan did try this stunt once but was immediately caught. As a result, the ropes are checked by the referees before every match. If a man goes out of the ring, you can rest assured he was thrown out. □



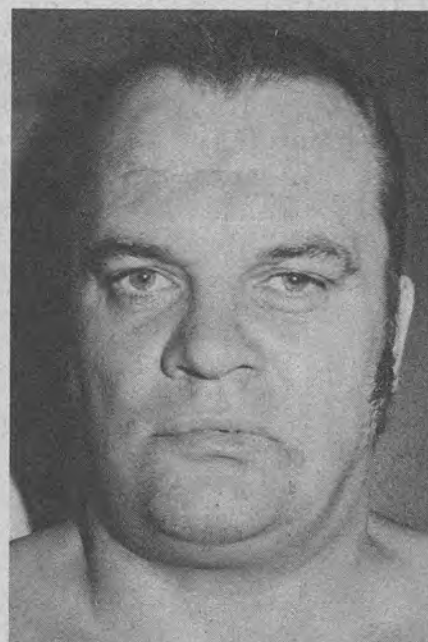
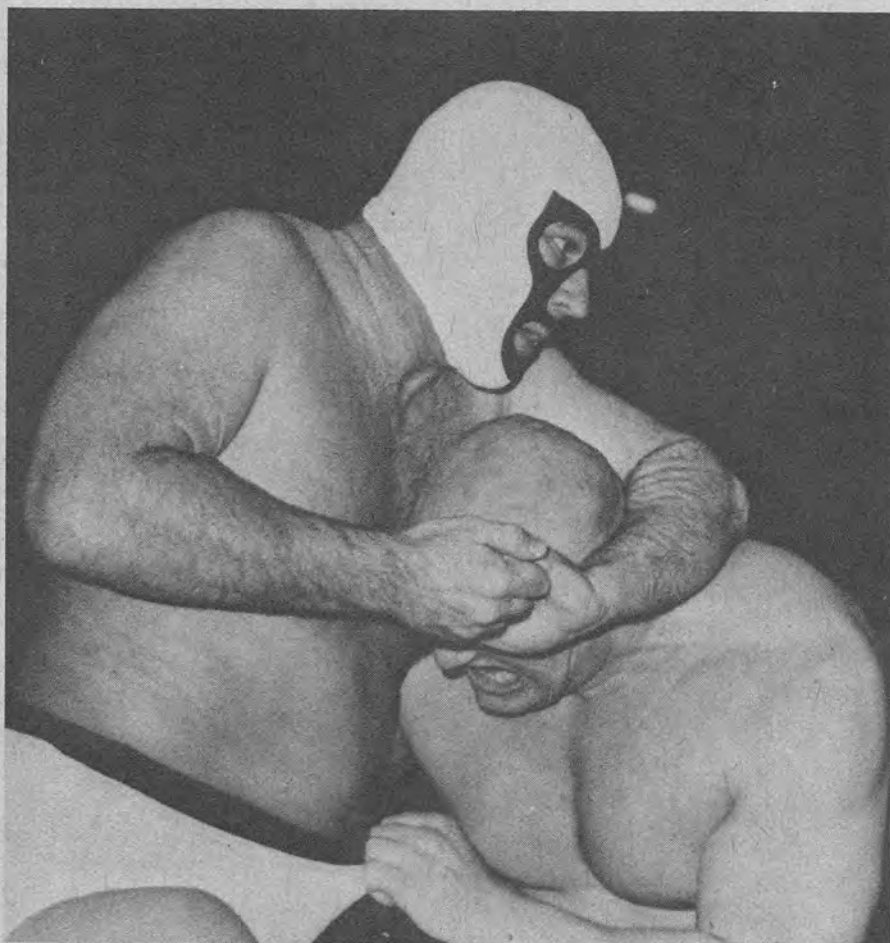
IS THERE A SECRET PACT BETWEEN BRUNO SAMMARTINO A



This accusation shakes the very foundation of wrestling. It must be disproven conclusively. Failure to do so could destroy the integrity of the sport for generations to come!



ND MR. WRESTLING II?



Left, opposite page: Sammartino aids a bleeding Mr. Wrestling II from the arena. The two men have worked together in the past. Left: Nikolai Volkoff screams in anguish as he feels Mr. Wrestling II's headlock. This happened a week before Volkoff met Sammartino. Above: Stan Stasiak is sure a plot exists.

IT'S DENIED BY those who should know. Of course, if it was true, they would have to deny it anyway. The NWA and WWF would crumble if there is indeed a pact between Bruno Sammartino and Mr. Wrestling II.

So far, coincidence is an acceptable explanation. Before battling Bruno Sammartino for the WWF championship, Nikolai Volkoff and Stan Stasiak had grueling battles with Mr. Wrestling II. After these furious

brawls, Volkoff and Stasiak were left stiff with pain. Both men claim to have been in less than top condition for their unsuccessful title bouts. They blame their failure on the masked grappler's questionable tactics, not Sammartino's abilities. And they don't believe in coincidence.

"Of course they're working together," Stasiak declares angrily, "only a fool would believe their denials. My best move is the heart

punch. Why did that masked moron work on my arm during our entire match? Just one of those things, huh? Don't believe it. He was setting me up for Sammartino, you can bet on that. I wouldn't be surprised if Mr. Wrestling II had a good deal of money bet against me in the Sammartino bout.

"That's why they're probably doing it. The masked louse softens up opponents for Sammartino, then bets

(Continued on page 50)

TOP WRESTLE

YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question which concerns all of wrestling? Well, each month in **INSIDE WRESTLING**, the sport's greatest stars will answer a question sent in by a reader. If you wish to have your question answered by the stars, send it to: **ASK THE STARS, INSIDE WRESTLING, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571**

The "Question of the Month" is:

"Out of all the wrestlers you know, who do you despise the most?"

**Submitted by:
Rick Winiarski;
Iselin, New Jersey**



SPOILER

"Personally, I find I could do better without Wahoo McDaniel being around. I find him to be a two-faced liar. I would prefer not to associate with him."



MIL MASCARAS

"There is only one man I have ever faced who is without any redeeming values whatsoever. That man is Ernie Ladd. I believe there is not one thing—his wrestling or his personality—which I can respect."



GREG VALENTINE

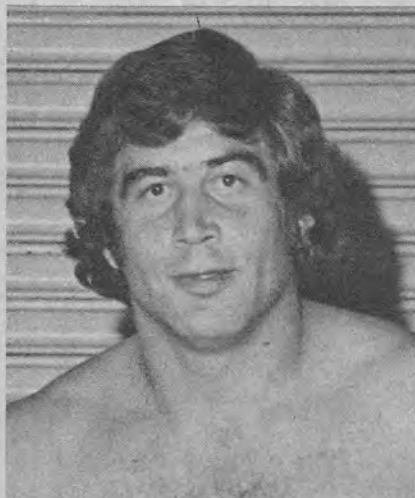
"The one man I really hate is The Sheik. He has given wrestling a bad name. While I admit there are limits a man can go to win a match, throwing fire around is just not my idea of how to be victorious."



BOBBY HEENAN

"Considering what he did to Ray Stevens, I would have to say I despise Beau James. Ray used to be an all right guy, until he met up with James. Now Stevens has no class, no style. He has lost everything I taught him."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



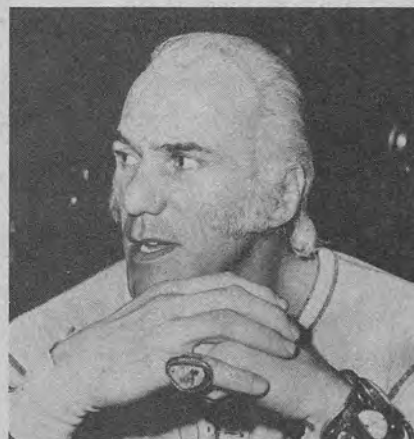
JACK BRISCO

"This may come as a surprise, but I really dislike that young punk, Bob Backlund. I think there is a lot of evil hiding behind that innocent face of his. He just cannot be trusted."



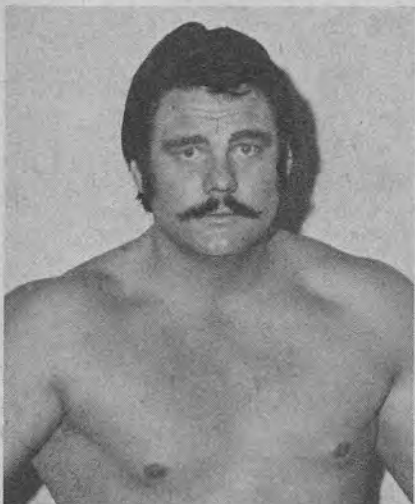
DICK MURDOCH

"To me, Chavo Guerrero is a classic example of a wrestler who is a lot less than he appears to be. Personally, I just think he is a braggart kid who doesn't have half the talent his father has."



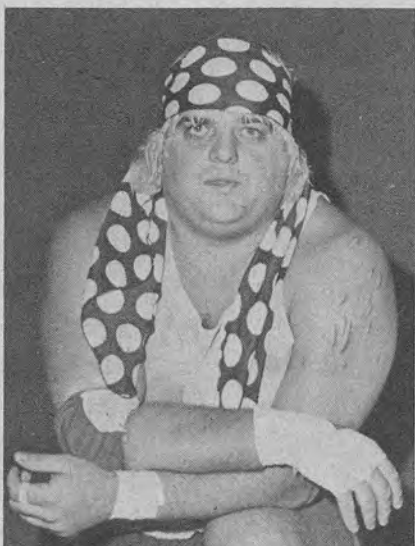
SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

"The one man who is personally despicable to me is Chief Jay Strongbow. I get really turned off by the way he tries to exploit his Indian heritage. If he concentrated more on being a good wrestler, I could probably tolerate him."



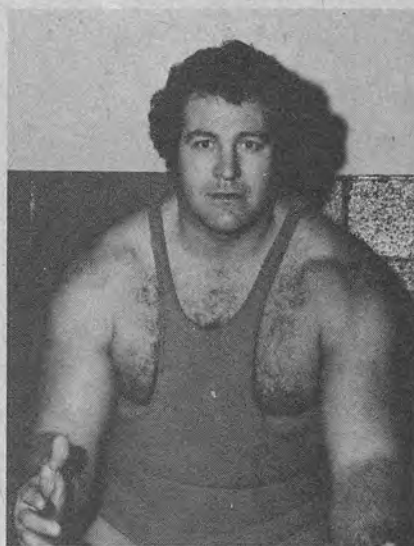
BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

"I'll tell you who I really despise—Bobby Duncum. He has been going around claiming he is a better partner for Blackjack Lanza than I was. That is ridiculous. Everyone knows Lanza was always at his best with me!"



DUSTY RHODES

"There are a great many people I can't stand in this sport, but the one man I really dislike is Don Leo Jonathan. We've only crossed paths once, but that one time was more than enough for me to learn to despise him!"



KEN PATERA

"I don't know why, but I just can't stomach Pedro Morales. I'm sure there must be someone, somewhere, who likes him, but it isn't me. There is just something about Pedro Morales which really irritates me." □

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ THE STORY ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ BEHIND THE HEADLINE ★



Volume 1 Number 8

Iron Man Art Whips Bolos

1962
-6-23

Sailor Art Thomas turned in an iron man stunt at the City Auditorium Friday night when, for the first time in Texas, he won a tag team match all by himself.

The mighty muscleman from Madison, Wis. turned in a two-straight fall victory over the Bolos, the Mighty and the Great, and sent the close to capacity crowd home talking to itself.

THOMAS WAS powerful and methodical as he shook off the efforts of the Bolo team to gang up on him. He took the punishment they threw and drew up his muscles for the attack, finally clamping a bear hug on the Great Bolo to take the first fall.

The grip injured the masked man and left the Mighty Bolo by himself for the second fall. Thomas again moved in relentlessly to use his bear hug and beat the Mighty Bolo for the second fall and the match.

NICK KOZAK and the Mummy went round and round for 20 minutes and when they wound up in a draw they asked for another five minutes and still reached on decision.

Ivan the Terrible was wild and

contend with Sailor Art. The bear hug proved to be successful for the second time that night. Within minutes, the fall—and the match—belonged to Thomas.

After the match, Thomas spoke with reporters. "That was one tough match," he conceded. "But I really think I showed those Bolos something. It will be a long time before they try to mess with me again. You can bank on that!"

And Thomas was true to his word. He never had to really worry about the Bolos again. □



IT HAS BEEN SAID tag team wrestling can be the toughest aspect of any in the entire sport. It has also been said no respectable tag team ever wanted to face men like the Bolos. But don't try to tell these "facts" to Sailor Art Thomas. He would just laugh in your face.

Back in June 1962, Thomas pulled off what many people thought was a foolhardy stunt—he challenged the Bolos to a handicapped match and won! Even those present in the Houston City Auditorium couldn't believe what they saw.

Neither Mighty Bolo or Great Bolo showed any mercy to Thomas, even though he was facing them without a partner to assist him. In fact, they tried to use every illegal maneuver they could devise against their lone opponent. But Art was able to handle the vicious team.

At first, the Bolos tried to doubleteam Art, but he was not about to allow that to happen. He was able to launch an attack of his own, finally clamping a bearhug on Great Bolo. The first fall was his.

This left Mighty Bolo alone to

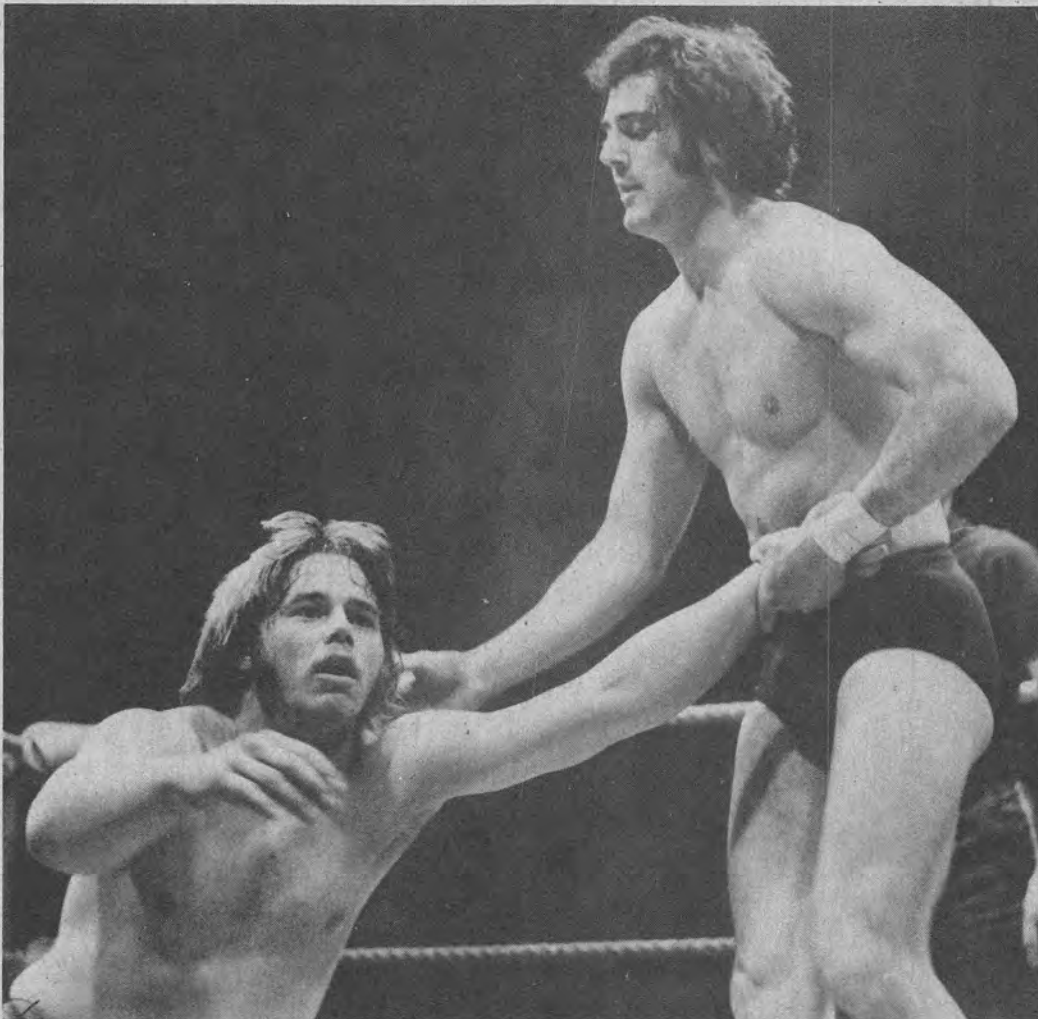
WE PREDICT GREG GAGNE WILL WIN THE AWA TITLE IN 1977!

One look at his opponent's face shows how strong Greg can be. It's this kind of domination over a foe which leads people to predict Greg will soon become AWA champion.

AT FIRST IT was a dream, then a hope, eventually a goal, and now a probability. Wrestling experts around the country assume Greg Gagne will soon be the AWA champion.

No one can think of a single match or series of matches when it was determined Greg would eventually reach the top of his profession. It just happened. People began accepting his championship as a logical eventuality. The best in the association fell before him. While most of the publicity was focused on champion Nick Bockwinkel and the veteran contenders, Greg worked his way up in the ratings. Bout after bout, victory after victory, the young man is coming closer to his title shot. His name began to work its way into conversations about the

(Continued on page 58)



His father lost the AWA championship to Nick Bockwinkel. To avenge the family honor and reinstate the title's dignity, Greg Gagne answers destiny's call and readies himself to become champion!

HERE IS W FAN OF TH



I'm the "Wrestling Fan of the Month" for sure,
For my wrestling fever there is no cure.
When asked if I like wrestling I say "OUI"
Invariably I watch it on the TV.

Also many a match I have seen
With wrestlers both nice and mean.
Wrestling magazines give me a delight
And a wrestling match is a zesty sight.
The sport which so thoroughly I enjoy
Also enchants many a girl and boy.
The wrestlers in their special ways
Please the people for days and days.
Because of this constant elation,
Toward wrestling I have a fixation.
Eternal wrestling I hope to see
And many others agree with me.

JEFF COHODES
Hollywood, Florida

WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE MONTH

**GUEST JUDGE:
DUSTY RHODES**

Let me congratulate,
This month's top fan,
In the special way,
That I alone can,

The guy knows what he's doing,
For sure he's no boob,
Every chance that he can,
He watches me on the tube.

The guy loves watching rasslin,
And to me it would seem,
His favorite athlete,
Is the "American Dream."

On a cold winter night,
In front of a fire he's nestling,
Watching scientific me,
While reading "Inside Wrestling."

There are so many fans,
For whom I wanted to vote,
But it was Jeff's style,
Of which I took note.

The kid's got class,
I will tell you that,
He's the fan of the month,
The king of the mat.

Congratulations to him,
A super fan—Jeff Cohodes,
From all at "Inside Wrestling,"
And from me, Dusty Rhodes.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME WRESTLING'S FAN OF THE MONTH

If you think you deserve this honor, simply send us a photo of yourself and a 100-word essay telling why you're the best fan. This can take any form from straight narrative to a poem. Photos cannot be returned.

The entries will be judged by our staff and a different wrestling star each month. The grappler will also tell why he voted the way he did, which may be the most revealing article about a wrestler you'll ever read.

Remember, the contest is called "Wrestling Fan of the Month," not "A Wrestler's Fan of the Month." This contest is intended to honor a sport, not a particular participant.

So while we admire those who work long and selflessly on their favorite wrestler's fan magazine, that's not a qualification in this contest. Fan club workers are rightfully honored elsewhere.

Without the fan, wrestling would wither and die. Because of the fans, wrestling has become the most popular sport in the world. It's about time the fans receive the recognition they deserve.

As soon as possible, send your photos and essays to:

**TOP FAN CONTEST
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PHOTOS CANNOT BE RETURNED!

PEN PALS DEPT.

Box 58

Rockville Centre, NY 11571

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Hobbies, other interests _____

Favorite Wrestler _____

I like ☐ Good Guys ☐ Bad Guys

I'd Like As My Pen Pal:

☐ Boys ☐ Girls ☐ Anyone

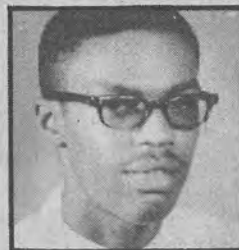
You Have My Permission To Print My
Picture.

Age _____

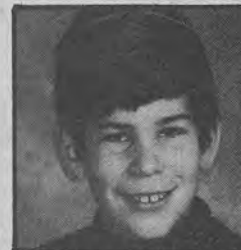
Please Sign Your Name



LORI ZELLERS (17)
215 Rush Avenue
Washington, NJ 07882
Likes cars. Bruno
Sammartino her
favorite. Likes
good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



TILLMAN HILL (26)
P.O. Box 253
Hogansville, GA 30230
Likes movies. Thunder-
bolt Patterson his
favorite. Likes good
guys. Girls for PP's.



MICHAEL DYM (12)
242 W. Waukena Ave.
Oceanside, NY 11572
Enjoys piano. Billy
Graham his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.



EDDIE HATCH (14)
145 Birch Street
Bangor, ME 04401
Likes sports. Ivan
Putski his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for PP's.



GAIL KELLY (17)
8419 Eldon Drive
Dallas, TX 75217
Enjoys art. Fritz
Von Erich her
favorite. Likes
good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



JEFF OHNING (14)
112 Butler Avenue
Roselle Park, NJ 07204
Likes basketball.
Mighty Igor his
favorite. Likes
good and bad guys.
Girls for pen pals.



TOM DE SENO (12)
817 Drummond Avenue
Asbury Park, NJ 07712
Likes basketball. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.



ADAM ORENSTEIN (12)
1 Russell Court
Northport, NY 11768
Collects coins.
Bruno Sammartino his
favorite. Likes good
guys. Boys for PP's.



DENISE VELASQUEZ (12)
525 Jackson Avenue
Bronx, NY 10455
Likes acrobatics.
Bruno Sammartino her
favorite. Likes good
guys. Anyone for PP's.



STACY BELL (6)
120 Evergreen La.
Cayce, SC 29033
Enjoys baseball.
Paul Jones her
favorite. Likes
good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



JOHN DIDDEN (11)
45 Priscilla Lane
Port Chester, NY 10573
Enjoys baseball. Andre
the Giant his favorite.
Likes good guys. Boys
for pen pals.



DURIA JONES (17)
1420 S. Lauderdale
Memphis, TN 38106
Enjoys football.
Jerry Lawler his
favorite. Likes bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.

N PALS



TAMMY SALISBURY (16)
RD 2 Box 175
Newville, PA 17241
Likes tennis, Don Muraco her favorite.
Likes good and bad guys. Boys for PP's.



FERNANDO GARCIA (14)
430 Tanner
Bakersfield, CA 93307
Enjoys hunting. Pat Patterson his favorite.
Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.



DAVID HART (12)
8 May Street
Spencer, MA 01562
Likes Hockey.
Billy Graham his favorite. Likes bad guys. Boys for pen pals.



JAMIE HOUSE (14)
Rt. 6 Box 278
Oxford, MS 38655
Enjoys track. Bill Dundee her favorite.
Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



MARK HEMBREE (11)
Route 1
Villa Rica, GA 30180
Enjoys rodeo. Mr. Wrestling II his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for pen pals.



ADAM SCHNEIDER (13)
60 Knolls Crescent
Bronx, NY 10463
Enjoys fishing. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



CHRISTY Rhein (13)
Box 88
Carmi, IL 62821
Likes swimming. Terry Funk her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



DAVID LOY (11)
705 Anson St. Apt. H28
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
Likes magic. Mil Mascaras his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



CHRISTOPHER CORSA (8)
1033 Revere Avenue
Bronx, NY 10465
Enjoys models. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for pen pals.



LESLIE BOULWARE (12)
101 Loquat Tr. Drive
Lake Worth, FL 33462
Enjoys fishing. Toru Tanaka her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



JERRY ERVIN (17)
508 Letcher
Henderson, KY 42420
Likes basketball. Jerry Jarrett his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



DAVID SAUNDERS (16)
1104 Brucemont Dr.
Garner, NC 27529
Plays golf. Paul Jones his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



SUSAN FISHER (11)
1914 Eastover Drive
South Boston, VA 24592
Likes sports. Pedro Morales her favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for PP's.



REUBEN PHILLIPS (21)
431 S. Boylan Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27602
Likes log rolling. Bulldog Brower his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for pen pals.



STANLEY SWIDERSKI (15)
600 Chaple Avenue
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Likes fishing. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



RITA VASSER (14)
Rt. 4 Box 312
Gretna, VA 24557
Likes motorcycles. Mighty Igor her favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for PP's.



MICHAEL VALENTINE (10)
41-18 Vernon Blvd.
Long Island City, NY 11101
Enjoys drawing. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



DONALD SCHLEY (15)
8924 Snow Acres Dr.
Laurel, MD 20811
Likes baseball. Mil Mascaras his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



GLORIA RAPLEY (11)
P.O. Box 69
Dallas, WI 54733
Rides horses. Jack Brisco her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



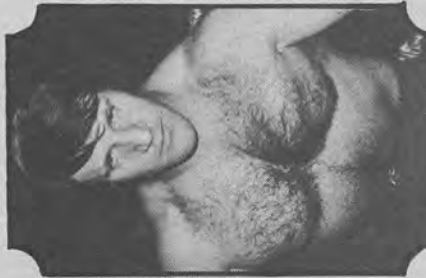
STEVEN PATTERSON (11)
2 Sadore Lane
Yonkers, NY 10710
Likes baseball. Billy Graham his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wide Wrestling Federation



Champion: BRUNO Sammartino



1—STAN STASIAK

American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—VERNE GAGNE

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion: TERRY FUNK



1—JACK BRISCO

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO



2—DUSTY RHODES

Tag Teams



1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS



2—THE SHEIK

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER





2—KEN PATERA



3—STAN HANSEN

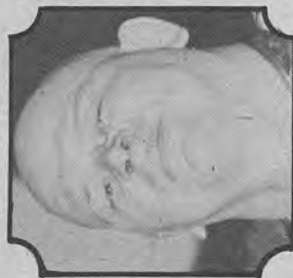


4—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

- 5—IVAN PUTSKI
- 6—TOR KAMATA
- 7—BOBO BRAZIL
- 8—CHIEF JAY
- 9—BRUISER
- BRODIE
- 10—BILLY WHITE
- WOLF



2—PETER MAIVIA



3—BARON VON
RASCHKE

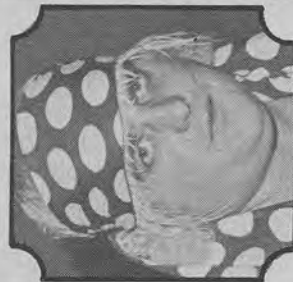


4—JOE LEDUC

- 5—GR G GAGNE
- 6—LARRY HENNIG
- 7—BLACKJACK
- LANZA
- 8—BOBBY
- DUNCUM
- 9—MAD DOG
- VACHON
- 10—JIM BRUNZELL



2—MR. WRESTLING II



3—DUSTY RHODES

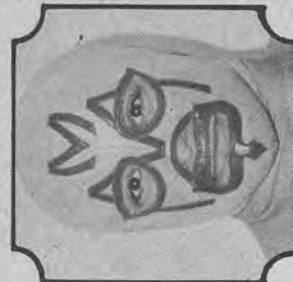


4—PAUL JONES

- 5—ROCKY
- JOHNSON
- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—JERRY LAWLER
- 8—HARLEY RACE
- 9—DORY FUNK JR.
- 10—DON KENT



3—ANDRE THE
GIANT



4—MIL MASCARAS



5—IVAN PUTSKI

- 6—MR. WRESTLING
- II
- 7—WAHOO
- McDANIEL
- 8—ROCKY
- JOHNSON
- 9—MIGHTY IGOR
- 10—PAUL JONES



2—BOBBY DUNCUM
& BLACKJACK LANZA



3—THE
EXECUTIONERS



4—CHIEF JAY
STRONGBOW & BILLY
WHITE WOLF

- 5—THE HOLLYWOOD
- BLONDS
- 6—GOLIATH &
- BLACK
- GORDMAN
- 7—THE VALIANT
- BROTHERS
- 8—GREG GAGNE &
- JIM BRUNZELL
- 9—RAUL & CARLOS
- MATA
- 10—SEIG STANKE &
- MOONDOG
- MAYNE



3—THE ASSASSIN

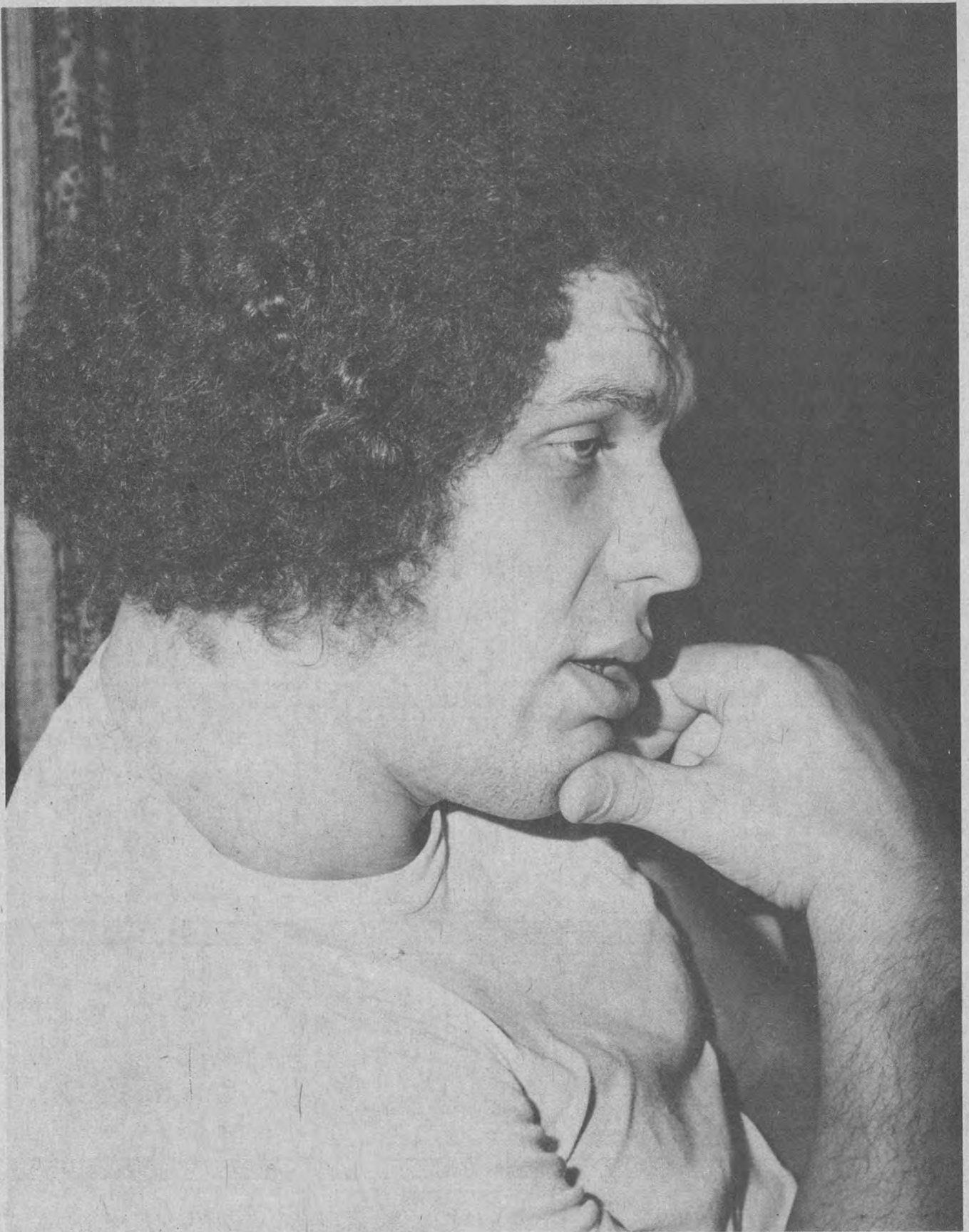


4—STAN HANSEN



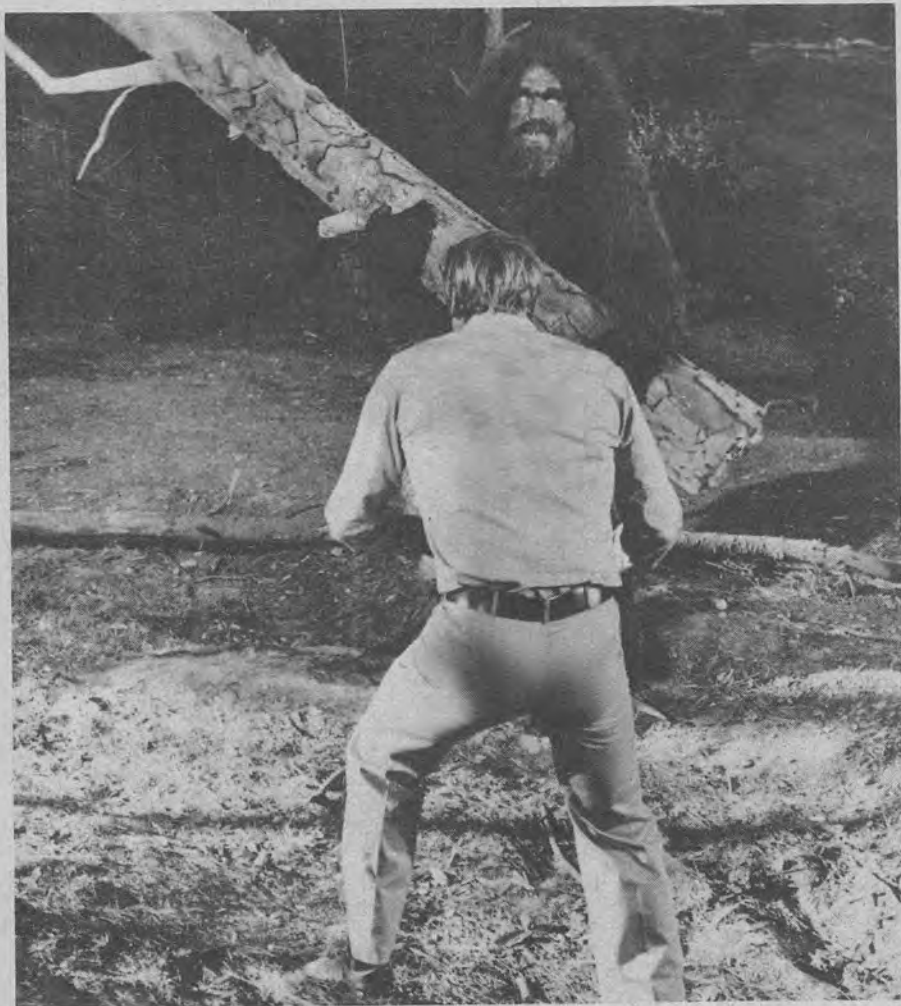
5—RIC FLAIR

- 6—BARON VON
- RASCHKE
- 7—STAN STASIAK
- 8—MR. FUGI
- 9—SEIG STANKE
- 10—NICK
- BOCKWINKLE



Trapped like a lion in a cage, Andre the Giant can escape the promoters' clutches only by quitting wrestling completely. Only the fans' voice can make him stay in the sport that loves him!

ANDRE THE GIANT WANTS TO QUIT WRESTLING... AND ONLY YOU CAN STOP HIM!



Andre the Giant has a lot to think about these days. He can either continue to wrestle and allow other men to control his destiny, or he can leave the sport he so loves. Unable to choose for himself, Andre has asked the fans to help him decide the most important question of his career. The behemoth grappler will make his decision in the near future!

WHILE MOST of the nation was thrilling at "The Return of Bigfoot" on *The Six-Million Dollar Man*, one man was staring angrily at the drama. The first Bigfoot, Andre the Giant, watched Ted Cassidy portraying the creature Andre had created.

A year ago, Andre had acted as Bigfoot to instant acclaim and popularity. He was so successful, the producers of *The Six-Million Dollar Man* decided to bring back the character to lead off the new television season, the most important show of the year. Naturally, they asked Andre to recreate his unforgettable characterization. The giant grappler delightedly accepted. Three hours later, thoroughly humiliated, Andre was forced to decline the role.

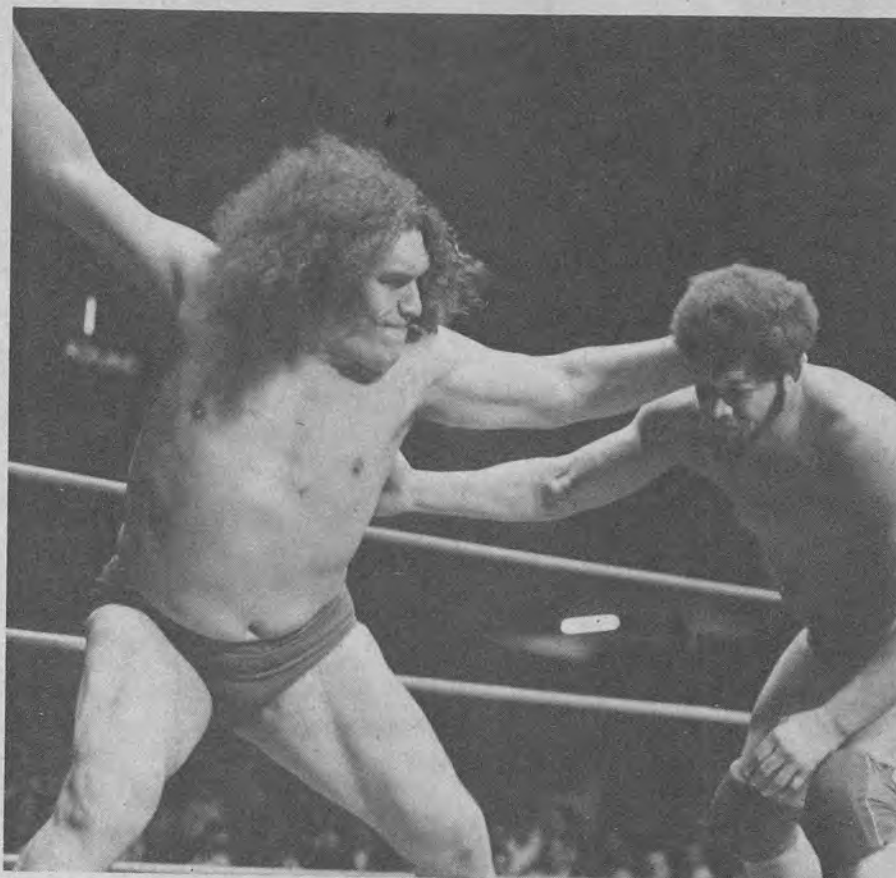
After agreeing to be Bigfoot, a call thought only to be a courtesy was made to various wrestling promoters. Andre was asking them, as a favor, to let him out of scheduled matches for the time it would take him to film the show. He would wrestle in the near future for them, making up for any lost money. There should have been no trouble, as far as Andre was concerned.

The promoters were adamant. Andre would have to live up to his contract or face the biggest court case of his life. They didn't care what else he wanted to do, his legal commitment was to them. It came as a total shock to the wrestler.

Another call to his lawyer told Andre the promoters had him legally trapped. A contract cannot be broken if one of the parties subsequently gets another offer he'd rather accept. The promoters had won legally. Fighting the contracts, a battle doomed from the beginning, would cost him more than 20 times as much as he'd earn as Bigfoot. Andre had to cancel his promise to the show's producers.

Andre fulfilled his commitments to the promoters, angrily but fairly. The giant wouldn't cheat the fans. He would do his best for them. But he promised never to forget the shoddy treatment inflicted by the promoters.

"I'm ready to quit," Andre announced the night after Bigfoot returned without him. "If I can't get a couple of favors from the men for whom I've made a fortune, then the hell with it. I love wrestling, but the promoters who shafted me are



Andre the Giant (above right) has won the hearts of fans all over the world for his great matches against Ernie Ladd (above) and Tarzan Tyler (below). There may be no more of these great battles.



they should tell Andre what the future should hold for this personable, troubled man.

If you want Andre the Giant to stay in wrestling, write to him in care of this magazine. We will send all mail directly to him. Of course, we hope he remains in the mat wars, but we'll send every letter to him, no matter what the opinion. This is for Andre's future, and we wouldn't dare betray his trust in the fans.

Remember, this is a grave responsibility. A man has thrown his life before the fans, hoping their collective wisdom will solve his greatest dilemma. Long consideration must be given to every letter. One person's hastily formed thoughts could send Andre down the path to destruction.

When we told Andre our plan to ask the fans to decide his future, he was delighted. A solitary man, the giant has never needed his friends' advice more than he does now. The thousands of people who will answer his plea could prevent him from making a decision he'll regret the rest of his life.

"I'll read every letter," Andre swore, "and give each one great consideration. I'd also like to speak on the telephone with the people who seem to be giving the most thoughtful opinions. Ask them to include their telephone numbers. There are times when I have to speak to someone. And listen to someone."

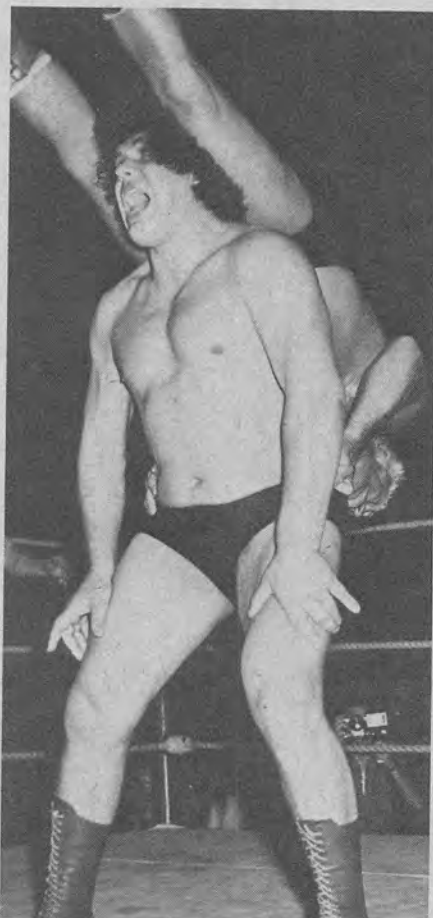
Andre is listening. Now the fans must speak. □

unforgiveable. Who needs it? The producers of *The Six-Million Dollar Man* were considerate human beings. I don't want to make a comparison between some promoters and the creatures they resemble, at least not in a family magazine.

"The only reason I'm staying in wrestling is the fans. They made me the happiest man in the world. I've always been feared, but it took wrestling fans to make me feel loved. That's why I won't leave the sport tomorrow—the fans mean too much to me. But I can't promise they will mean enough to me to keep me in wrestling for much longer.

"I know many fans were disappointed I wasn't in 'Bigfoot.' I'd like to know if the fans would rather see me as an actor or a wrestler. I'm too upset to make up my mind at this point. After all I've done for those promoters..."

Andre's idle speculation is actually the best way for the giant to decide upon his future course. The man has always believed his first responsibility is to the fans. What they want Andre wants. Therefore,

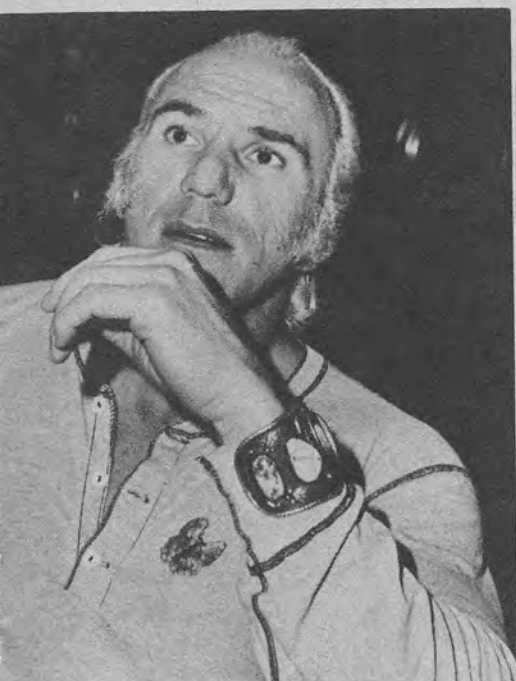


inside WRESTLING

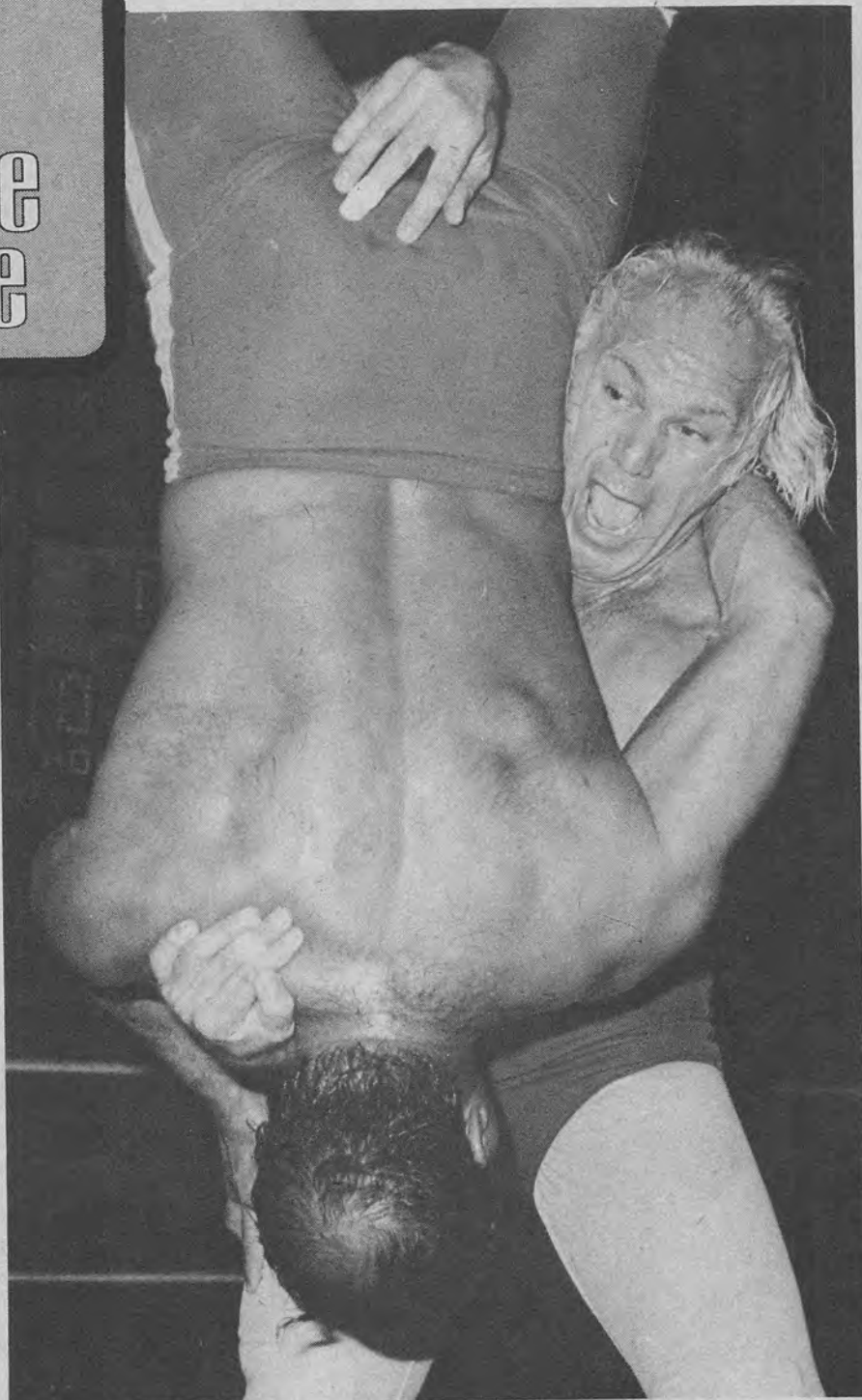
8

capsule profile

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM



HE IS ONE of the most loved and most hated wrestlers in the sport . . . Calls himself Superstar to reflect his enlarged ego . . . Has wrestled in all three major association ("I want people all over the world to have a chance to see me being magnificent.") . . . Will go to any length to win a match . . . Few referees are able to spot even his most flagrant violations . . . Has entered and won numerous bodybuilding competitions ("It is only natural that I won, daddy. After all, look at this beautiful body.") . . . Is considered by most experts to be the strongest man in the sport

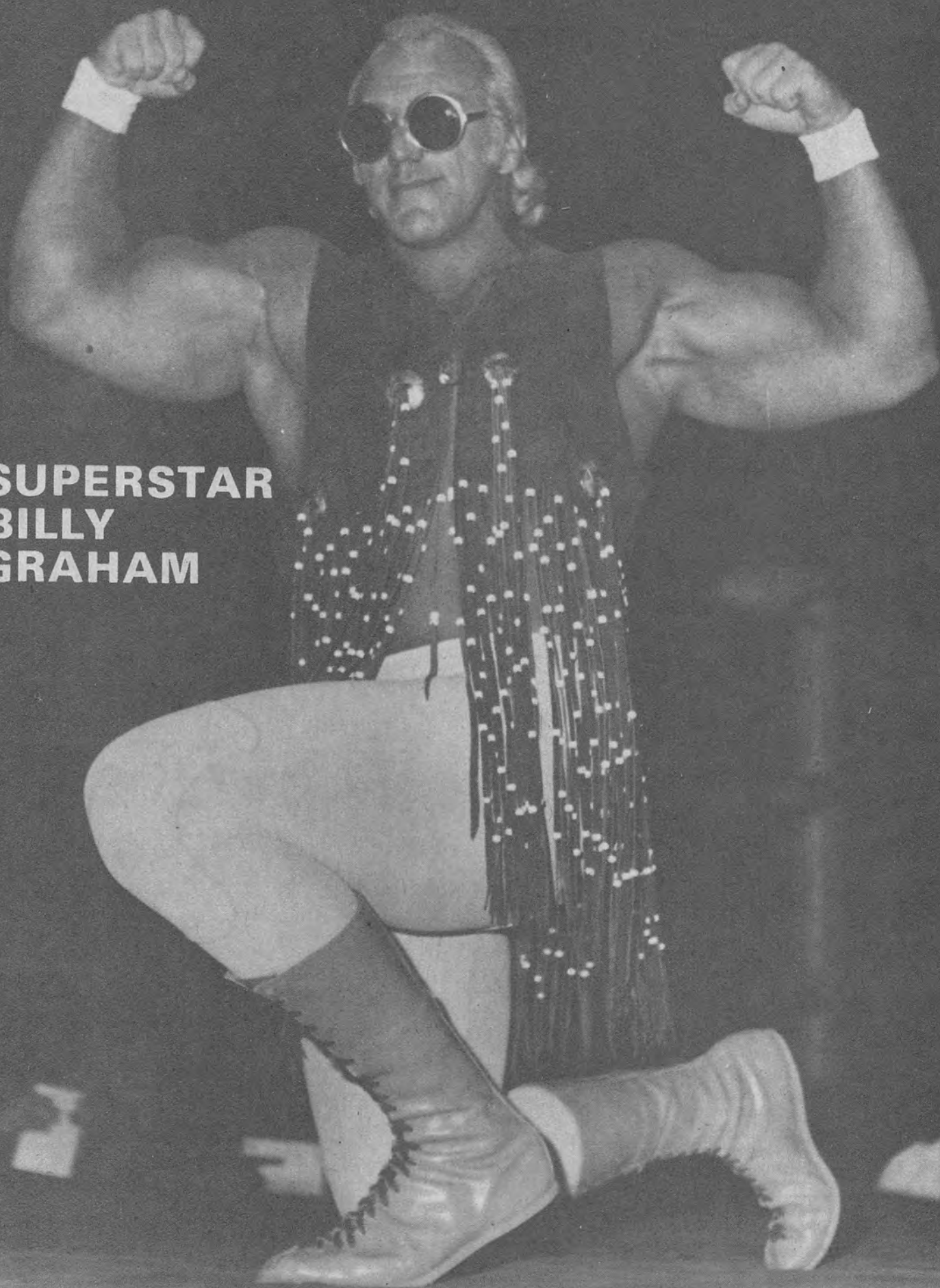


. . . His cruelty and short temper are the two most important reasons he has never won a world title . . . Not above using every imaginable illegal tactic he can conceive . . . Is afraid of anything which could

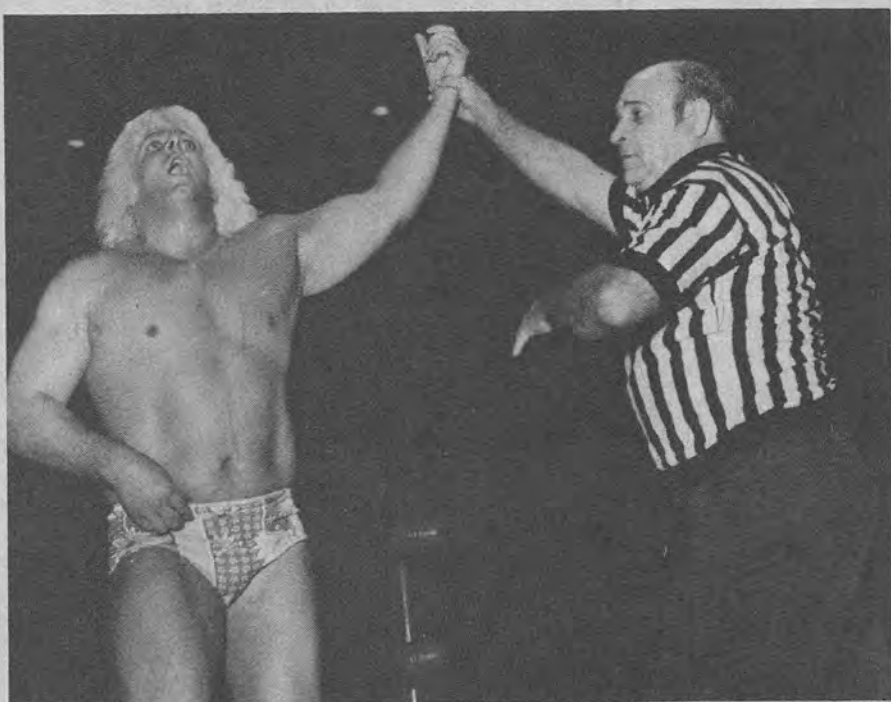
permanently scar his face ("I don't want to mess up these good looks.") . . . One of the most colorful dressers in wrestling . . . Love him or hate him, he is one of the most important men in the sport. □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP

**SUPERSTAR
BILLY
GRAHAM**



NEWS FROM THE WRESTLING CAPITALS



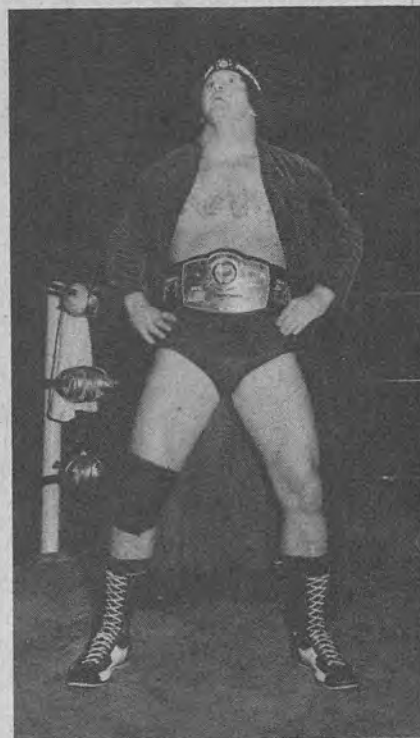
Ric Flair may have his arm raised in victory, but he's glad just to be alive after being doubleteamed by his cousins, the Anderson brothers. This is one family that's going to have rough relations for a long time!

PORTLAND, OREGON—Correspondent: Ken Hamblin—Terry Funk, upon orders from the NWA powers that be, traveled to this beautiful northwestern city for what proved to be an epic title bout against talented Jimmy Snuka. Funk may have taken Snuka lightly before the bout, but he soon learned respect for this great young veteran. At the bell, Jimmy started quickly and kept his momentum for the first fall. Funk, somewhat overwhelmed by this whirlwind from the Fiji Islands, soon found himself trapped in a Fiji Full Nelson. It was this hold that brought Snuka a first fall triumph. Funk was much more cautious in the second fall. After some rough but excellent battling, Terry tossed Snuka out of the ring and, with the referee unable to see it, applied a backbreaker on the concrete floor. Snuka was finished for fall number two. Fall three had Snuka

slowly regaining his strength as Funk weakened. On four occasions, Snuka had Funk pinned for the count of two. However, Jimmy was never able to get Funk for the fatal three count before the time limit expired. Terry Funk was very lucky indeed to escape from Portland with a draw—and his NWA belt.

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA—Correspondent: Russ Carter—A giant family feud has broken out in the Mid-Atlantic area between Ric Flair and his cousins, the Anderson Brothers. The trouble occurred during a six-man tag team match when Flair missed a blocking assignment on opponent Sandy Scott—thereby causing Gene Anderson to get floored quite unceremoniously. Anderson blamed Flair and the two men had words. With Ole Anderson taking his

brother's side, Flair was outnumbered two against one. However, Greg Valentine soon bounded out of the dressing room to come to Flair's aid. While no punches were exchanged on this night, this is a feud which shall boil over to violence in the very near future.



Terry Funk stands proud in Portland, Oregon. Funk had been ordered there to defend his title against the fine contender, skillful Jimmy Snuka.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI—Correspondent: Harvey Weinstein—It was quite an evening of top wrestling here at the Kiel Auditorium. In the opening bout, Akio Sato and Skip Young took two of three falls from Denny Albert and Gary Fulton . . . Former WWWF kingpin Pedro Morales continued to impress midwest fans with a disqualification victory over tough Ox Baker . . . Another former world champion—Pat O'Connor of the NWA—showed he still has the magic with an impressive
(Continued on page 54)

HOTSEAT

TERRY FUNK: I'VE BROUGHT THE NWA TO ITS KNEES

HE IS ONE of the most controversial men in wrestling. Trained by his father and his older brother, he started out as a strictly scientific wrestler. But this young man realized he would have to get tough to make it to the top. He changed his attitude and became a hell-raiser. Shortly thereafter, he became one of the most feared individuals to ever enter the arena. On December 10, 1975, he beat Jack Brisco for the NWA title. He is Terry Funk.

Q: Welcome to the "Hotseat," Terry.

A: Let's dispense with the formal stuff. I am the NWA champion. I am a busy man. Get on with this interview already!

Q: Certainly Terry. A lot of people consider you an accidental champion. The night you won the title, Dory Jr. had been scheduled to wrestle then-champion Jack Brisco. Brisco trained for a match against Dory—not you. What's your reaction to this?

A: All it was, brother, was a clever bit of strategy on the part of the Funk family. We realized Brisco would be training for Dory. We realized he would be thinking of his match against Dory day and night. So we pulled a switch on

him. I substituted for Dory. Brisco was asked by the proper authorities if he would put the belt up against me that night, and he said he would. And then in a short 28 minutes, I defeated him with an inside cradle.

“

I am the champ. They should come crawling to me . . . not the other way around. I have accepted the challenge of every top—make that so-called top wrestler in the world.

”

Q: You previously stated Dory Jr. was in Japan that night. Now you say he wasn't—that this thing was pre-planned strategy. Why did you lie?

A: Did Brisco go ahead and okay the match against me?

Q: Yes.

A: Did he agree to put up the world title that night?

Q: Yes

A: So how can you say anything bad about me and Dory? I defeated Brisco and that's all that counts now! I ended the so-called Brisco era!

Q: Terry, you have become one of the most unpopular and arrogant champions in history . . .

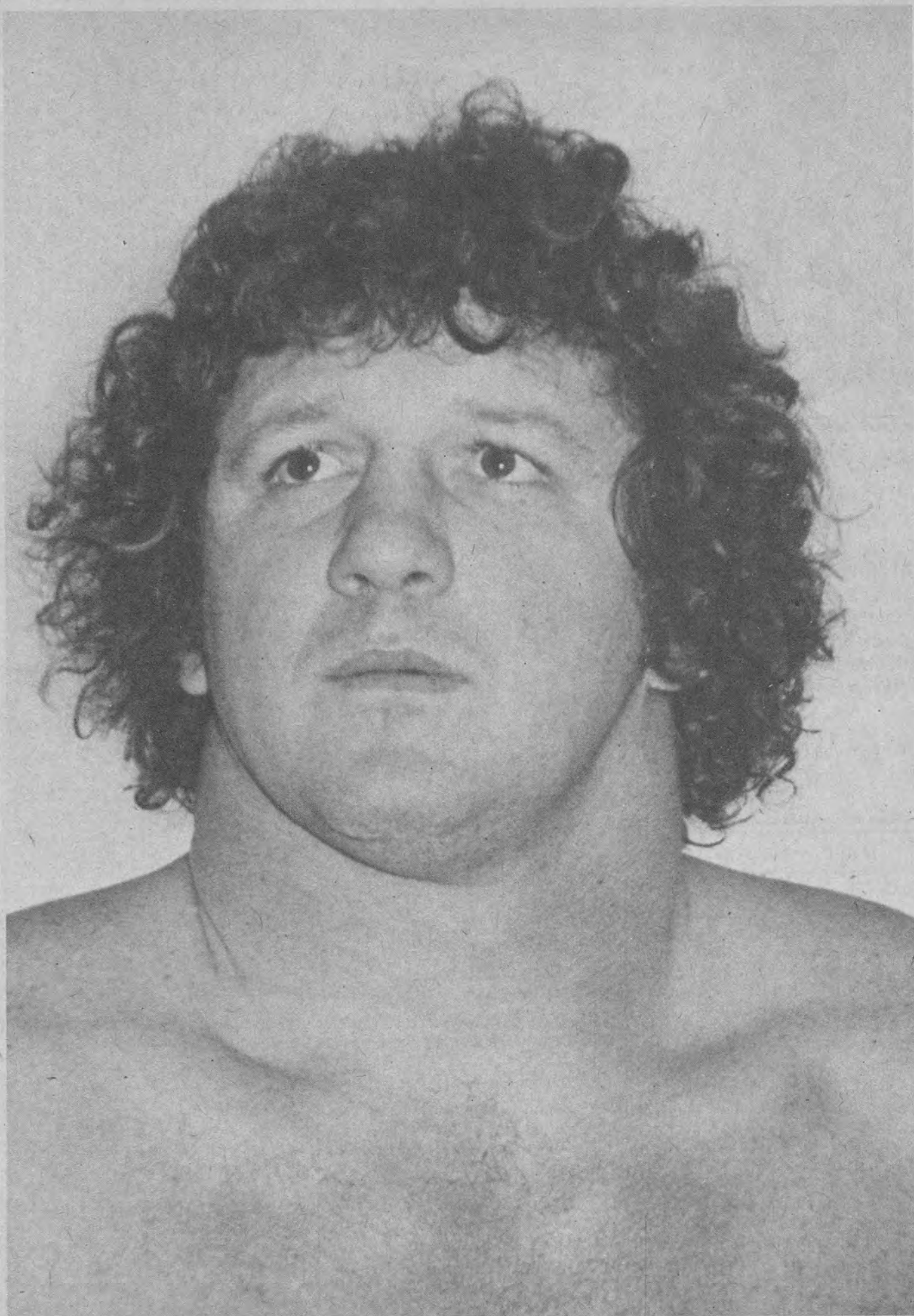
A: Wait just a minute! Unpopular, arrogant! How can you say this. I have drawn record crowds. I have accepted the challenge of every top—make that so-called top wrestler in the world.

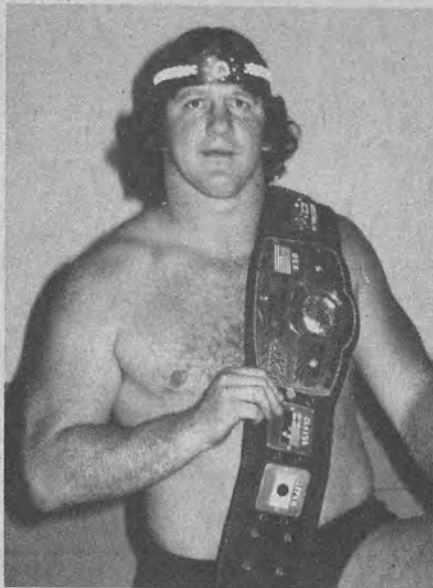
Q: Terry, you have not met every top challenger.

A: Once or twice I have not gone against someone, but only because they want the match in their hometown. That's a hunk of bull. Let them come to my hometown, Amarillo, Texas. I am the champ. They should come crawling to me . . . not the other way around! I want to wrestle in my hometown as often as I can.

Q: Don't you think the NWA should call the shots and the champion should not give the orders?

A: I think a champion should have a say as to who he wrestles and





“

My brother is a wealthy man. If he wants to spend his money trying to find someone to intercept a challenge to me, that's his privilege! This is America!

”

where the match takes place. For example, in Florida I continually get that fat bum, Dusty Rhodes, stuffed down my throat over and over and over! This is what I disagree about. Florida is a pro-Rhodes state. I want him in Amarillo—a pro-Funk town.

Q: Did you ever get your way in an instance like that?

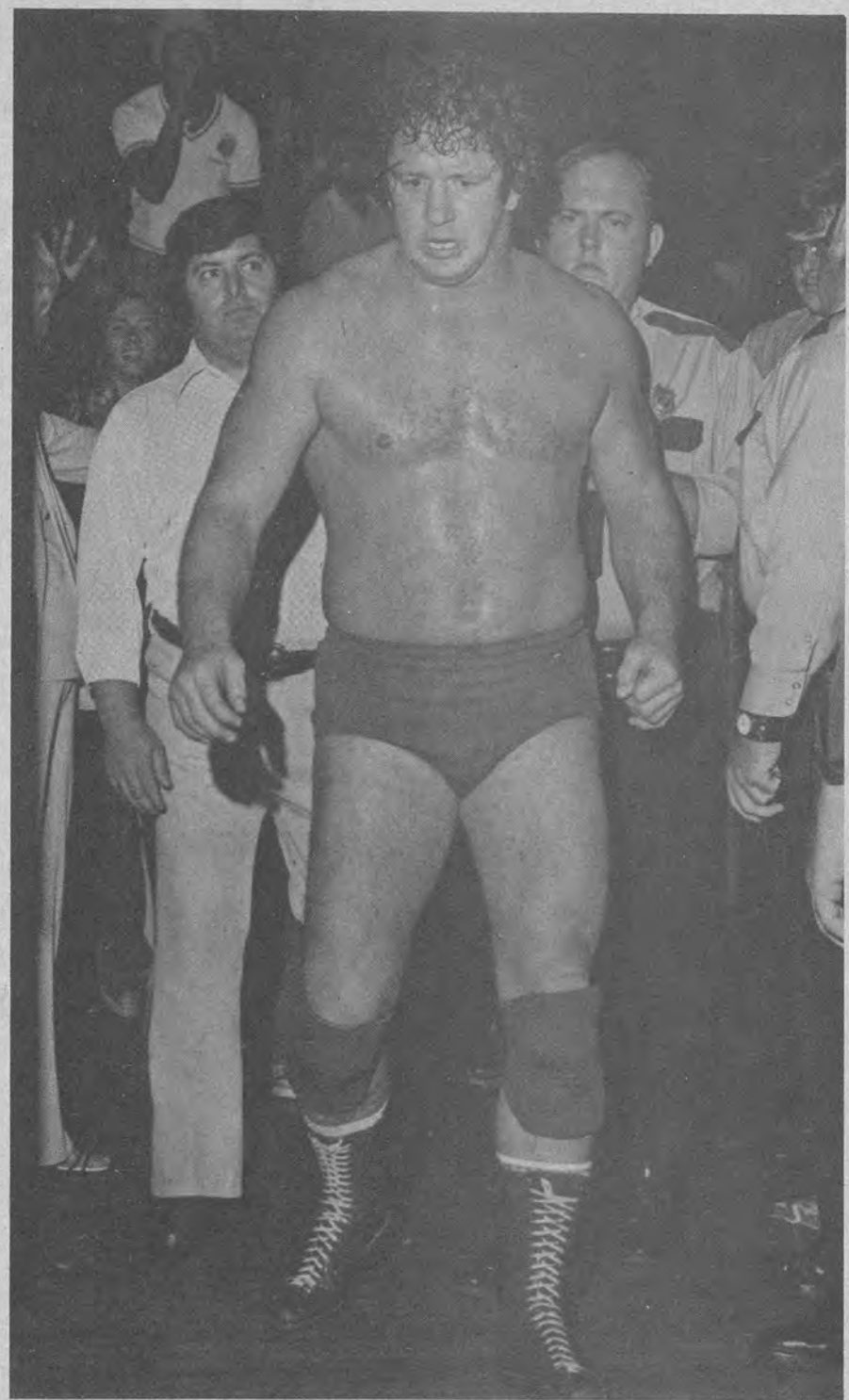
A: Yes. I brought the NWA to its knees. I threatened to retire the belt. They begged me not to. I am a compassionate individual and I gave in.

Q: Do you expect us to buy that?

A: It's all fact!

Q: On several occasions you have discredited Dusty Rhodes, a man who is a fine wrestler and top contender. Why do you do this?

A: As I said, I wrestle him so often that one day I am afraid he will win on a fluke. Then a big fat



It's another rough but successful title defense for Terry Funk as the champ wearily walks back to the dressing room. Though the crowd may be booing him, Terry still retains the belt.

overstuffed hippo will be walking around the country with the NWA belt! What a disgrace! It would degrade professional wrestling!

Q: Is it true your brother Dory is your “policeman?”

A: I have heard a lot of criticism regarding that matter. Let's clear it up right now. I say—so what! If he wants to wrestle my con-

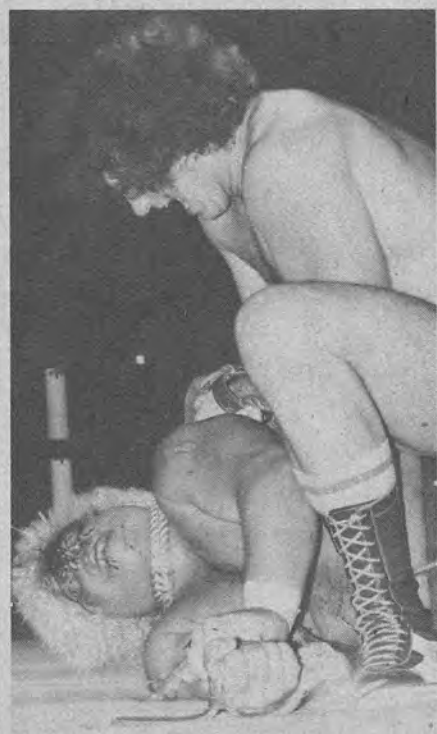
tenders before they get to me, that's great.

Q: Wait a second. He's putting bounties on the heads of men who are up for a shot at your title.

A: So what! The man is wealthy. He has several large ranches, a lot of cattle, and he can afford to do whatever he wants. If you want to go out and spend your money on a large steak, that is your



Above: Chavo Guerrero gives Terry Funk one of the toughest battles of the champ's life! Below: Terry uses a thick rope to choke bloody Dusty Rhodes into senselessness.



privilege. If you want to save it, that's just fine. If my brother wants to spend his money trying to find somebody to intercept a challenge to me, that is his privilege! This is America!

Q: Why do you get yourself purposely disqualified to save your title?

A: I never have.

Q: Terry, we know of more than 10 occasions that . . .

A: I don't want to talk about it. Move on—or I'm moving out!

Q: Okay, Terry. Why hasn't Paul Jones gotten a shot at your title?

A: Paul Jones should be running a chain of hair salons or something.

Q: He beat you before you became champion Terry!

A: That means nothing. He should get out of wrestling. He's not cut out for this kind of work.

Q: What about Chavo Guerrero?

A: It is a proven fact that he has been pushed by certain organizations. He has not gotten title shots on his own merit. It was the money behind him that got him to me.

Q: How would you react to a match against Dory Jr?



“

It is a proven fact that Chavo Guerrero has been pushed by certain organizations. He has not gotten title shots on his own merit. It was the money behind him that got him to me.

”

A: That would be a ridiculous match.

Q: Why? Don't you think you could beat him?

A: I think I would be at a disadvantage. And it's a disadvantage that is well-known in all family circles. Anyone who has an older brother knows you can't step on him. Dory and I have had our heated arguments, but we have never gone into combat. Usually Dory, because he is older, wins the arguments. Because of the family situation, I would be at a disadvantage.

Q: Do you have anything else you would like to add, Terry?

A: Hell no! I'm too damn busy. I've got to get out of here. Oh, wait . . . one last thing. I plead to the promoters of the world—give me some decent competition. I am tired of beating up nobodies! □



***The Question That May
Destroy The WWWF:***

**JUST
HOW MANY
EXECUTIONERS ARE THERE?**

THE COMMISSIONER SHOOK like a subcompact car on rocky roads. Grabbing a two-shot glass of scotch, he downed the stiff drink in a gulp. He ordered another, a triple.

The man had just completed the toughest job of his entire life. It was his duty to take the WWWF tag team title belts from the Executioners. Stripped of their championship, these men were less than receptive to any official visit.





For the man who would demand their title belts, these men would give a welcome of clenched fists. And now that there seemed to be at least three Executioners, the danger of bodily harm had become that much greater.

There was a \$1,000 reward for the man who would take the title belts from the team. The brave commissioner had reluctantly accepted (no one had considered the

mission when the bounty stood at only \$500). It was something that had to be done. Maybe the Marines could do it.

From the moment the Executioners were stripped of their title, this young man sensed it would be his thankless task to retrieve the belts. He could feel the fear creeping along his spine. It had been a good night for him until the Executioner's match. Then came the nightmare.

It was fairly nightmarish for the Executioners and Lou Albano, also. Their opponents, Chief Jay Strongbow and Billy White Wolf, were making things very rough for the masked pair. It looked as if their title reign was quickly drawing to a close. When one Executioner rolled off the ring and toppled onto the concrete, it appeared the end was at hand.

(Continued on page 64)

Three Executioners have been seen at the same time! How many more are there? And can the WWWF tag team title ever recover from the biggest scandal in its history?



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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 12)

Although Dusty has tried to atone for permanently crippling the young grappler, I do not believe there is any way he can give the young man back the career he lost. Dusty can pay for the hospital care, but he can never lessen the agony the young man has had to go through.

I have always admired Dusty Rhodes. But I think I now have a slightly more jaded feeling about him.

ALICE McMAHON
Tulsa, Okla.



Above: The Executioners doubleteam Bruno Sammartino. Below: One mistake will haunt Dusty Rhodes forever.

ON THE "HOTSEAT"

It was quite upsetting to see The Executioners on the "Hotseat" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). They certainly proved their personalities are as despicable as their wrestling abilities. Indeed, I was sickened by their sleazy attitude toward wrestling. They should be driven out of the sport once and for all.

Men like The Executioners give wrestling a bad name. By putting them on the "Hotseat," your magazine exposed these two as being worse than most fans ever imagined!

JOHN SEIGLE
Hartford, Conn.



COWARD HANSEN

Stan Hansen is a coward! I have come to this conclusion after reading "Behind the Dressing Room Door" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). I find it rather laughable that Hansen is afraid to confront your ace investigative reporter, Randy Gordon.

From reading his column, it is clear to me Randy Gordon is the top wrestling reporter in the world. He has given the fans the information they want on the top wrestlers around, though he has had to risk his neck on several occasions, just to get a story.

All I can say is keep up the good work, Randy. You have the greatest column of anyone in the wrestling press.

LESLIE COWAN
Chevy Chase, Md.

As a traveling salesman, I have the opportunity to see wrestling in every part of the country. In most arenas, it is nearly impossible for fans to get near the wrestlers. In those rare arenas where contact between wrestlers and fans does happen, the grappler usually refuses to honor fans requests. Most times, the fans leave very disappointed.

Congratulations to Dan Shocket. He is totally correct!

WALTER HUTSEN
Kansas City, Mo.

WRESTLERS' DISGRACE

I couldn't agree more with Dan Shocket's "Bodyslams & Pinfalls" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976) about wrestlers who refuse to sign autographs for fans. I have found this to be true no matter where I see wrestling.

JUST THE FACTS!

Thank you for your new column, "Rumor vs. Fact" (INSIDE WRESTLING/December 1976). It provides a service which I think will be helpful for both the wrestlers and the fans.

Too many times wrestlers have been the victims of ugly, vicious gossip which is potentially damaging to their

(Continued on page 48)

LEARN FROM THE DRAGON!

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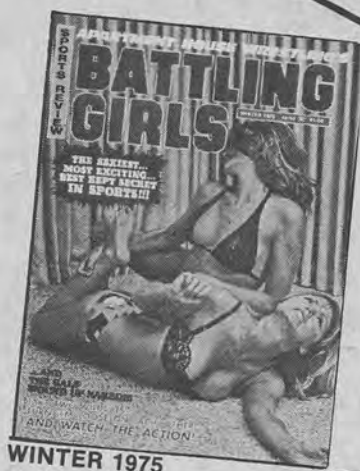
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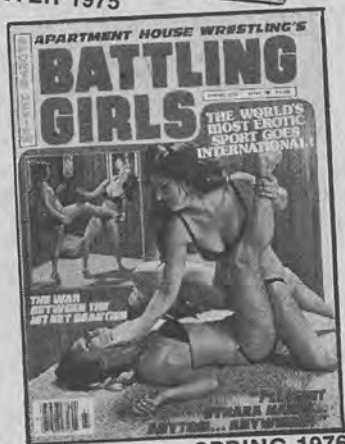
THE OFFICIAL
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FROM THE
PHOTOGRAPHERS
AND WRITERS
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 46)



Bob Orton Jr. tries to escape the grip of Tony Romano. Orton couldn't escape scrutiny by **INSIDE WRESTLING'S** investigative staff!

careers. Your new column is long overdue. At last the public will have a chance to discover if the rumors which constantly circulate are true or false.

I was especially concerned about the rumor that Greg Gagne had been seeing a psychiatrist. This story had been circulating for a while, and I was quite curious to discover whether it was true or not. Now, thanks to "Rumor vs. Fact," I know the entire tale is untrue.

Keep up the good work. You are doing a great job.

ANNETTE HRONSKI
St. Paul, Minn.

WHY, BOB?

In "Five Secrets Bob Orton Jr. Hoped the Fans Would Never Learn" (**INSIDE WRESTLING**/December 1976), it is made clear that Bob does not intend to return to his scientific ways. That, to me, is a very big disappointment.

I used to like Bob Orton Jr. and the way he wrestled. When he changed his style, I was quite upset, but I was confident he would return to his scientific ways in the long run. You can't imagine how upsetting it was for me to read he will not be doing so.

Maybe Bob will realize he is disappointing his fans by continuing in this fashion. Then, maybe, he will return to the way we used to like him.

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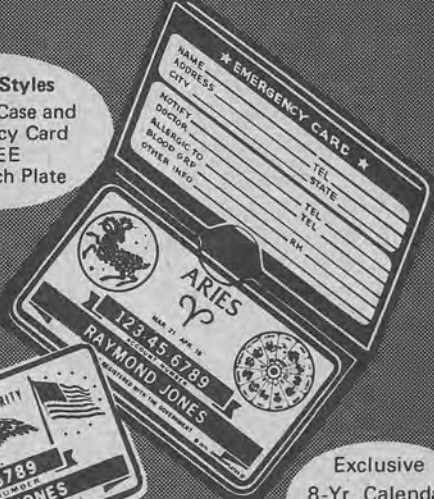
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BRUNO — MR. WRESTLING II

(Continued from Page 23)



Above: Sammartino ends Volkoff's title hopes. Was Nikolai weakened by Mr. Wrestling II? Below: Volkoff has Bruno in a bearhug.



a bundle on the chump champ Everyone figures me to win the match, so the odds are fantastic. Little do the bettors know I've been injured. Sammartino gets the information right from the assassin. A sweet deal. I guess Bruno has quite a mortgage on that place in Pittsburgh.

"I'm not the only one," Stasiak claims, "or I'd think it was just to get revenge against me for being better than they are. But they did the same thing to Volkoff, and I'll bet it will be the same with Sammartino's next challenger!"

As might be expected, Lou Albano, Nikolai Volkoff's manager, agrees with Stasiak, usually at the top of his lungs.

"You bet your life there's a

conspiracy!" Albano shouts wildly. "It's the worst I've ever seen! Makes me ashamed to be part of wrestling. But it's not just those two bums they're not smart enough. It has to have been masterminded by the promoters.

"Look, Sammartino and his masked buddy are just a couple of flunkies. It's giving them too much credit to suppose they can think on their own. And that's why promoters like them—they can be controlled. Stasiak and Volkoff don't keep a civil tongue on the promoters' boots, and it scares the hell out of the money men. So they tell flunkie #1, Mr. Wrestling II, to batter away at flunkie #2's future opponents, flunkie #2 being Superflunkie Sammartino.

"The promoters are protecting themselves. They have a man who bows to their every whim as champion. What do they need with a real man, one who does what he wants when he wants to do it? A man who can't be bribed with a few bucks to do handstands is the last man they want as champion.

"The conspiracy exists, but don't believe the flunkies are behind it. It's the promoters who are responsible."

Once the allegations were made, denials were swift. Promoters from all over the country demanded Albano take back his statements, calling him a liar and worse. Many swore to ban Stasiak from their arenas until Stan apologized for the insults. As for the two wrestlers themselves, their reactions were quite different.

Bruno Sammartino refused to comment on the charges at all,



Volkoff is hurled to the canvas by Mr. Wrestling II in a bruising bout a short time before Volkoff had his WWWF championship bout.

claiming, "It is ridiculous." Mr. Wrestling II just laughed and then added his own interpretation.

"Actually," he began, eyes twinkling behind his mask, "both Bruno and I are captives of aliens from outer space. They are of much greater intelligence than we and are planning to corner the market on hamburger franchises. To gain enough American money to start their first stand, they're betting on Sammartino's victories. Bruno and I are the helpless slaves of their dream to become hamburger emperors of earth! I'm glad to be able to finally confess my shame.

"If you believe that," Mr. Wrestling II concluded with a laugh, "you'll believe Bruno and I have some sort of pact. My explanation is no sillier than Stasiak's accusations.

"I beat Volkoff and Stasiak fair and square, at least as fair as possible when dealing with those two rulebreakers. I did it for the sheer joy of beating those rats. If I helped them lose to Bruno, that's all for the better. But every wrestling fan knows Sammartino doesn't need anyone's help. He's a living legend because he's one of the greatest men who ever wrestled. Volkoff and Stasiak are just making excuses for being beaten by a better man."

There is no proof of a secret pact as of this writing. For the good of wrestling, hopefully no proof exists. □

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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)

No one would have ever dreamed of questioning Lanza's commitment to wrestling. Yet he had just told me, in veiled terms, of his secret wish to be anything but a wrestler sometimes. I did have trouble understanding exactly what he meant about being locked into a pattern from which there was no escape. I asked him about that.

"What I mean," he explained, "is that it seems I was always destined to be a wrestler. I really had no choice in the matter. Once I started, I knew this had to be my life's work. I must tell you something very few people know. If it had not been for Verne Gagne, I might never have become a wrestler. He is the person



Above: Lanza the gambler always sports a one-eyed jack and an ace of spades. Below: Early in his career, Lanza tortures Mighty Atlas.



who made up my mind for me. He helped me during my first few years. Then I met up with Bobby Heenan, and he has been my guiding influence ever since. I think that upset Gagne greatly, but it helped me considerably.

"You know, it is a shame I will never be able to team up with Blackjack Mulligan again. He was a good guy, and we did some good work together. But the AWA doesn't want us to wrestle as a team anymore, and there is nothing we can do about it. Of course, Bobby Duncum is a great wrestler, and we do well together. After all, we did win the title. Yet sometimes I miss the good old days with Mulligan. Keeping him and me apart is unfair,

but it's part of the game.

"That is what I mean by being sick of the whole crazy mess. I enjoy wrestling, but sometimes it really gets to me. These silly rules and regulations make it harder for me to be at my best. Don't misunderstand me, I enjoy wrestling. It's just that I get fed up at times. Besides, there must be an easier way to make a living than sacrificing my body every time I step into an arena.

"As I sit by my typewriter now, I realize that no wrestler has ever revealed so much of his inner self to me as Blackjack Lanza did at the motor speedway. I think I can understand him better now.

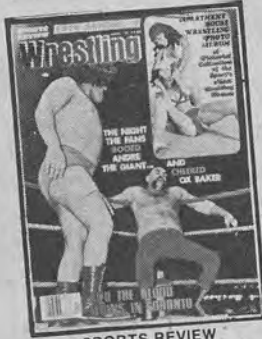
But I also feel very sorry for him. □

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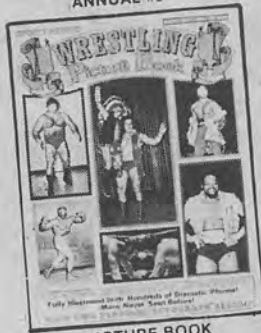
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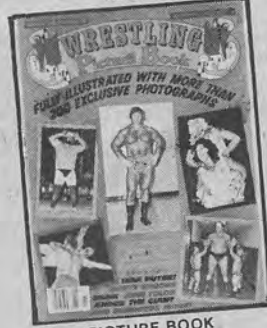
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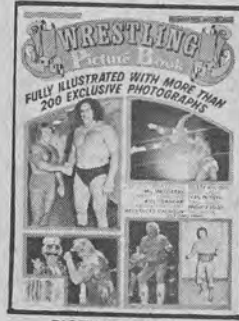
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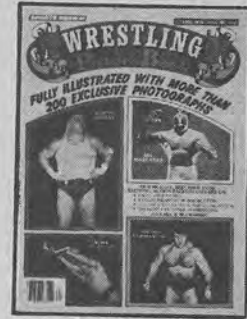
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WRESTLING CAPITALS

(Continued from Page 39)



Above: Beau James doesn't realize Ray Stevens is about to fire him! Right: Mike Graham warily studies his opponent. Below right: Gorilla Monsoon knows his work is cut out for him facing The Executioners. Below: Jack Brisco seems destined to brawl against Bob Backlund.



triumph over Moose Morowski . . . Jack Brisco and Bob Backlund were victorious over Buddy Wolfe and Moose Cholak, but at much too high a cost. During the bout Brisco and Backlund had heated words, with Jack blaming Bob for a maneuver which was not timed properly. Although the two men were the winners, Brisco left

the ring without apologizing to Backlund, and it unfortunately appears these two popular superstars are now on a collision course . . . In the first main event, Harley Race was disqualified during his match with Dory Funk Jr. However—and this may amaze some fans—the crowd was cheering Harley and booing Funk . . .

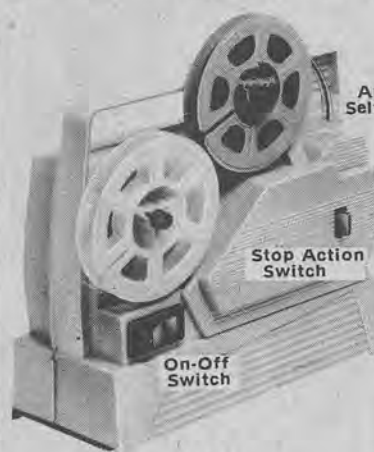
In the second main event Bruiser was wildly cheered in his battle with Lord Al Hays. In a very close and rough match, Bruiser finally triumphed after 10 minutes and 39 seconds of excellent wrestling.

FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY—Correspondent: John Dodds—Southern New Jersey fans finally got a chance to view the most hated tag team in WWF history in person—The Executioners. It was a title bout with the masked duo wrestling Gorilla Monsoon and Victor Rivera. The first fall was over quickly when The Executioners won it via illegal tactics and brutal double-teaming. Monsoon and Rivera finally mounted an offense in the second fall. And what an offense it was! First Monsoon dominated the action as he handed a vicious—but well cheered—beating to both Executioners. Gorilla then tagged Rivera who evened the match with an abdominal stretch on Executioner #2. In the third and deciding fall Monsoon and Rivera once again battered the Executioners from ringpost to ringpost. Knowing their title was in definite jeopardy, Executioner #1 decided to let himself get counted out of the ring. He knew he would lose the match but the team would be able to hold on to the belts . . . In other action: Vastly improved S.D. Jones defeated Tom Stanton . . . Johnny Rodz came up short against Puerto Rico's Jose Gonzalez . . . Gashouse Gilbert looked very impressive en route to a victory over Manuel Soto.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—Correspondent: Danny Nasir—Young Mike Graham and veteran superstar Ray Stevens battled physically after many months of feuding verbally. Mike survived an early onslaught by Stevens and held his own until Ray, with the illegal help of a foreign object, pounded and bloodied Graham. Ray fired Graham into the ropes but miscalculated and both men's heads hit with a sickening thud. Beau James, Steven's manager, pushed Ray on top of Graham. But at the count of two Graham kicked out and then mounted an assault which led to victory at 19:09. **BULLETIN:** After the bout Stevens fired manager Beau James! . . . In other Jacksonville action: The Hollywood Blonds beat Steve Keirn and Bob Backlund . . . Tommy Seigler was victorious over The Assassin . . . Ken Lucas took the measure of Bob Howard. □

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from Page 10)



turmoil. I just can't take that chance. But because they all read your column, tell them I love them, and I hope they will understand."

I got a good belly laugh last week. I was in and around Abdullah the Butcher's dressing room just as he was about to make his way into the arena to face Dusty Rhodes. Abdullah, who is notorious for using foreign objects to blind and batter opponents, caught a small taste of his own medicine. He was about to open his dressing room door when he dropped his foreign object. As he bent over to pick it up, a member of the state athletic commission hurriedly opened the door—right into Abdullah's face. He wasn't badly hurt, just stunned. But it was great to see Abdullah get clocked.

A few months ago, I was offered the difficult task of refereeing a match. I was honored to have been asked, but figured I had enough work to do without being a referee. However, the offer didn't die with my rejection. Several wrestlers have approached me recently and said they think I'm as qualified as anybody around to referee. I continually say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

But now, I really don't know what to do. Should I attempt to referee a match now and then, or not? I am qualified, make no mistake about that. When such men as Jerry Brisco, Bruno Sammartino, Mil Mascaras, Andre the Giant, Chief Jay Strongbow and others ask me to referee, you know I'm qualified.

Therefore, I'm leaving it up to you, the wrestling fan, to decide. It's you who go to the matches. It's you who read my column. It's you who are

responsible for making me the success I am today. Do I referee or not? In the hundreds of your beautiful letters I receive every day, let me start seeing what you think I should do. Should I guest referee on occasion? YES or NO.

Jack Brisco, who was laid up for a spell after being sneak attacked by Bob Roop and Bob Orton Jr., is back in action and better than ever. For the first time in his life, Brisco feels hatred in his heart.

"I won't be satisfied," said Jack in a low voice, "until I get my revenge against Roop and both of the Ortons. I can't believe I feel this way—it's so unlike me. But wouldn't you feel the same way if you were sneak attacked? By the time the fans read this, I plan to have already sent Roop and the Ortons to the hospital."

Stan Stasiak is one rulebreaker who would never allow Randy Gordon near his dressing room. It is for that reason I recently donned one of my famous disguises to talk with Stasiak. Entering the room as Cal Darfman, a gray-haired Southern sportscaster, I was able to learn a few of the underhanded things he had planned for wrestlers of the WWWF.

"I'm gonna run all the 'goodies' and so-called 'scientific wrestlers' out of the territory," Stasiak said. "Those crybabies have never seen the likes of Stan Stasiak and some of the great things I've planned for them."

As Cal Darfman, I convinced him I couldn't stand rule-abiding wrestlers, and he took me into his confidence within minutes. He also showed me some of the foreign objects he plans on using, and the pouches in all his trunks to hide them. I had to do all I could to keep from laughing when he said, "You're a great reporter, Cal, a man who really knows his business. You're not like some of those other twerps, especially Randy Gordon. Gordon's done enough to me. I refuse to take any more from him. I'll bash his face in the next time I see him. But you, Cal—you're a reporter I know I can trust."

Can you picture Stasiak's face as he reads this column! It's probably red with anger, and I'd give anything to look at it and laugh.

See ya' next month.



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GREG GAGNE

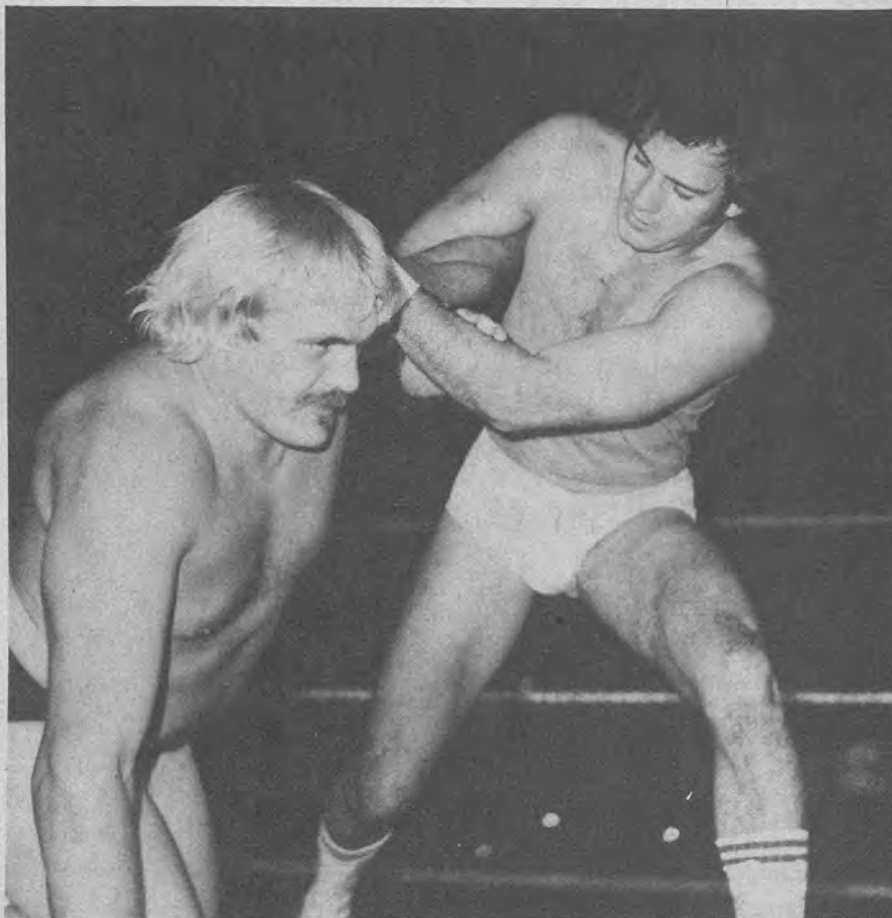
(Continued from Page 27)

best around. And now his name has begun to dominate those talks.

Greg's name was also mentioned in discussions about the top tag teams. With Jim Brunzell, Gagne has made some remarkable innovations in the sport and has promised to do much more. While he is considered a top solo grappler, most people are fascinated by his revolutionary tag team tactics. This

tended to make the experts overlook Gagne's title drive until it was upon them.

Talking to most observers of the wrestling scene produces the same opinion: 1977 is the year Greg Gagne becomes AWA champion. All the omens are visible; the means are evident. Bockwinkle has always been weakest against fast, agile grapplers. Indeed, grace and speed



Greg can capture an opponent with either his arms (above) or legs (left). He learned this from his father, Verne Gagne (below).



are Bockwinkle's greatest fears. Gagne is the right man at the right time in the right place. He can't help it if he's lucky.

Of course, Greg knows he's been picked as the heir apparent. The praise is delightful, but the responsibility is wearing, adding pressure to his every appearance. Wrestlers watch his every move and devise strategies especially to defeat him. Gagne will face his toughest competition in the next 12 months. He will either become champion or a doomed man.

The adulation and expectation haven't affected Greg's personality or his outlook on life. However, there is a change about his career considerations.

"The time for experimentation is over," Greg admits, "the discovery of what works best for me. I now know my capabilities and limitations. There'll be a lot less recklessness in future matches. I can't take many chances. There is too much to lose.

"I want the championship. That's something I didn't realize about myself before people started saying I was getting close to it. I'd always thought I'd go for the title later in my career, when the responsibilities wouldn't be so limiting. Now, when it's a real possibility, I find myself wanting the title as soon as can be. It's weird to wake up one morning and discover you're ambitious; playtime is over.

"There are so many things I wanted to do with my life that don't seem important anymore. I was probably using them as excuses to not go for the title. Once the championship became possible, all other plans disappeared. The title is so much more important than anything else I ever imagined.

"Also, it's a chance to become wealthy when I'm still a young man. That's a strange thought. I never really needed money or went without anything for very long. But this is a whole different thing. This is more money than I need or want, serious money. That can change a life. I'll have to start thinking about investments, planning, buying property. I'd always thought that would scare me. Now that I'm faced with it, though, I find it really exciting."

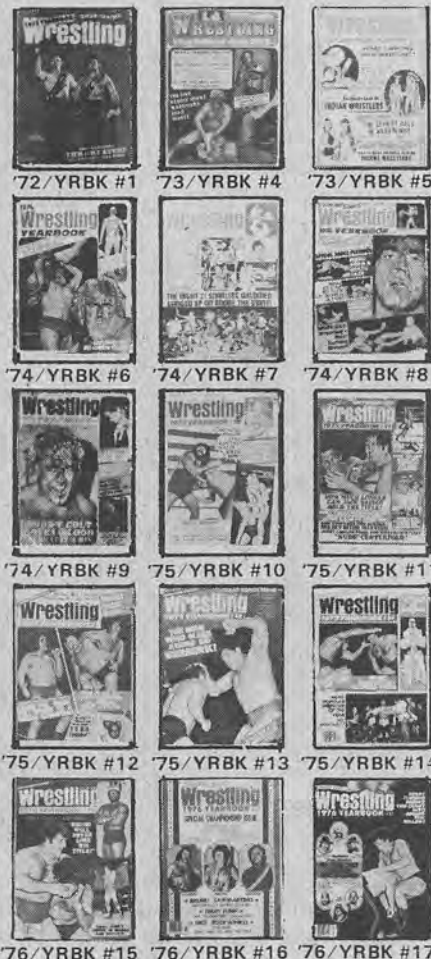
Greg does have one regret.

"I was really excited," he

(Continued on page 60)

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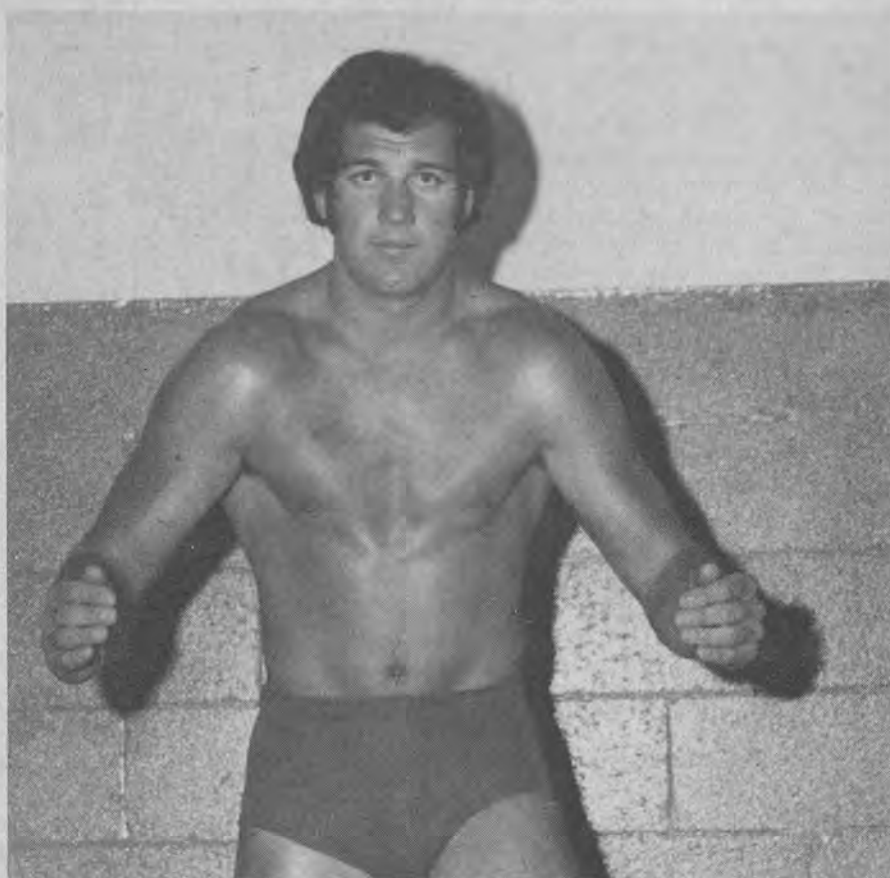
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GREG GAGNE

(Continued from Page 59)



Above: Greg's good looks make him very popular with lady fans all over the AWA. Below: Greg manages to get the upper hand against wily veteran Ray Stevens in a wild brawl.



declares, "about teaming with Jim Brunzell. So many interesting things have happened between us. Given another two years, we would have changed tag team wrestling completely. They'd have to throw away all the books and write new ones. They'd have called us 'the fathers of modern tag team wrestling.' I'll still be his tag team partner, but it won't be the same. We may be innovative, but the revolution is over."

Every champion is called upon to make sacrifices, and Gagne is no exception. It would be too much to expect a man who appears destined to win the AWA title to give up that prize for any other. There can be only one consideration for Greg Gagne today. He must capture the title that once belonged to his father, Verne, and is now held by Nick Bockwinkle.

It now seems clear a Gagne will defeat Nick Bockwinkle for the AWA title. Ex-champ Verne might sit by while his son avenges the family honor and the honor of the AWA title. You can expect it to happen within the next 12 months. Only the tragically unexpected can stop what most consider to be inevitable. □

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BODYSLAMMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 18)



Above: Harley Race smashes helpless Omar Atlas with a piledriver. Below: Ray Stevens finishes off Waldo Von Erich with "bombs away."



Patting the new bulge in their pockets, the commissioners banned "bombs away." Some men defeat you in the arena, others win with backroom bribes.

While we're listing endangered maneuvers, let's bid a fond farewell to the heart punch, a subtly difficult move developed by Stan Stasiak. No one can show me any-

thing in the rulebook to prove this illegal. The passage doesn't exist. Still, the heart punch has been banned in many places. Why? Money talks, nobody worries—except cheated Stasiak and the fans.

The list can go on and on. The excuses would make an even longer list. It's about time those who press for banning of maneuvers be called what they are—cowards hiding behind the rulebooks. Their pleas of "don't hurt me" are the death knell of the sport. Those who love wrestling can only mourn their existence.

What astounds this writer most of all is how the "scientific" wrestlers have hoodwinked the supposedly intelligent fan. These cowards, creeps, clowns, and cretins have the fans believing maneuvers should be banned. The situation results in fans calling for limiting what they pay money to see. It's like baseball fans demanding the home run to be banned!

It seems "scientific" wrestlers have fooled all the people some of the time. It is yet to be seen whether they can keep pulling the wool over the fans' eyes. At least the commissioners are making some money over this ridiculous situation! □

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Now, read very carefully what I'm going to suggest. I am going to give you the idea to stop using 10,000-mile spark plugs in your car! That's right...get rid of them forever! But, you may ask: "If I get rid of my plugs, what will make my engine run?"

Well, please remember that if you were told a couple of years ago that your car could run without a carburetor, you simply wouldn't have believed it—yet today you can have gas injection and get more mileage, efficiency and power from less gas—and in a few years gas injection will have

replaced carburetors on most cars. In the same way, all you have to do is to replace your old, borderline, inefficient spark plugs with a modern fuel ignition system, and you can do it yourself in 15 minutes if you've never handled a tool in your whole life!

MECHANICS AND ENGINEERS READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY

Now, the new fire injection I am talking about is so inexpensive that it can pay for itself in gasoline savings alone. For the moment, forget about the extra pep, power and performance that can be in store for you. Forget about the savings in spark plug servicing and replacement, the savings in wear and tear on pistons and cylinders. Just remember that one plug mis-firing in a V-8 engine can cut mileage by as much as 12%. Just remember that this fire injection system can pay for itself in gas savings.

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A spark plug jumps a spark of electricity across an air gap; this is very wasteful, and limits the size of the spark.

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A fire injector has no air gap to erode away. It will actually outlast your automobile, delivering maximum efficiency without servicing or replacement. There is no wasted gasoline, no loss of power to which you are entitled.

Ordinary spark plugs have to be replaced regularly — or for extra life, you must remove them — clean them — re-gap and then re-install them.

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- Needs periodic replacing
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- NO wire electrode
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- NO cleaning or setting
- NO replacing
- NO blowing out even at highest compression

If you have automatic transmission, now put your car in drive and let your engine idle. If your car stood still with spark plugs, it will now move forward at from 4 to 6 miles per hour; that means the amount of gas that just kept your engine turning over will now carry you further — faster — cheaper!

If you have a racing car, sports car or boat, your RPMs will increase up to 200 more at idling, up to 300 more at high speed.

If you have regular transmission, in low gear and with your motor idling, your

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EXECUTIONERS

(Continued from Page 45)



Strongbow, sensing victory, captured the remaining Executioner in a sleeper hold. But then, at ringside, it appeared the injured Executioner was ready for more action, seemingly fresh and unharmed.

Even before the fans could understand this startling change, they had to absorb an even bigger shock. The referee was signalling that the match was over! The Executioners had been disqualified.

"I saw," the referee explained, "a man dressed as an Executioner rush out from the dressing room. He's

One Executioner holds a foe still as his partner smashes the helpless man from behind. This is a typical Executioner maneuver.

obviously a third grappler and not from the original pair. The Executioners are disqualified!"

Albano and two of the Executioners dragged the third man from beneath the ring and all ran back to the dressing room. They knew the consequences of being caught would be dire. It probably cost them their title. They were all in foul moods. One could

sense by looking at the dressing room door that only the very brave or foolhardy would dare enter that domain.

The WWF hierarchy reacted decisively when faced with the greatest scandal in its history. They immediately stripped the Executioners of their title and declared the tag team championship vacant. A tournament would be set up to determine a new winner. Someone would have to get the title belts.

While the commissioners decided who would get the belts and what his reward would be, Strongbow talked to the press. He was wild with rage. But there was also much relief in his voice.

"Many times," he declared, "Billy White Wolf or I would have one of the Executioners in trouble. We'd win the fall, thinking the injured Executioner could never come back in time for the next fall. Instead, he emerges from the dressing room, having gone ostensibly to fix something wrong with his gear. He comes back better than ever. He's stronger than anyone has a right to be so late in the match.

"There has to be more than two Executioners," Strongbow believes. "I wouldn't be surprised if there are at least a half dozen. They are chosen on the basis of style for each match. The two wrestlers best suited to defeat a certain type of opponent are chosen for that match. No wonder they can defeat all types of opponents!"

Many wrestlers who've battled the Executioners report similar experiences to Strongbow's. Many agree with his theory. All agreed they wouldn't want to be the commissioner who took back the team's belts.

After the official's ordeal, he sought the sanctuary of the bar. He hoped no one would see him. All he wanted was to stop the trembling and go home unnoticed. The bartender offered him a napkin filled with ice and had the good sense to say nothing. With one hand grabbing his glass and another pressing the icepack to his face, the man drank quickly.

In less than 15 minutes, he limped out of the bar. By this time, his left eye had swollen shut and his jaw made him understand the meaning of pain. The Executioners had not given up the belts happily. There had been three masked grapplers and Albano taking swings. It allowed them to work off their anger.

One commissioner, worse for the wear, left the bar and stumbled home. He had done his job. His mind was going over his resignation. □

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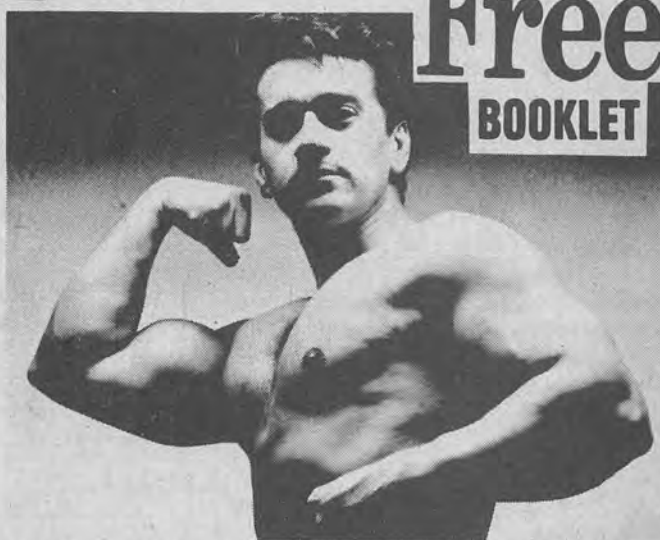
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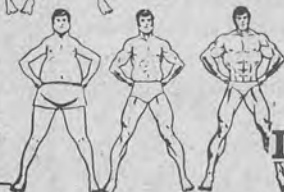
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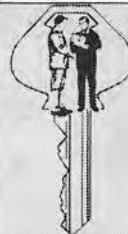
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